X

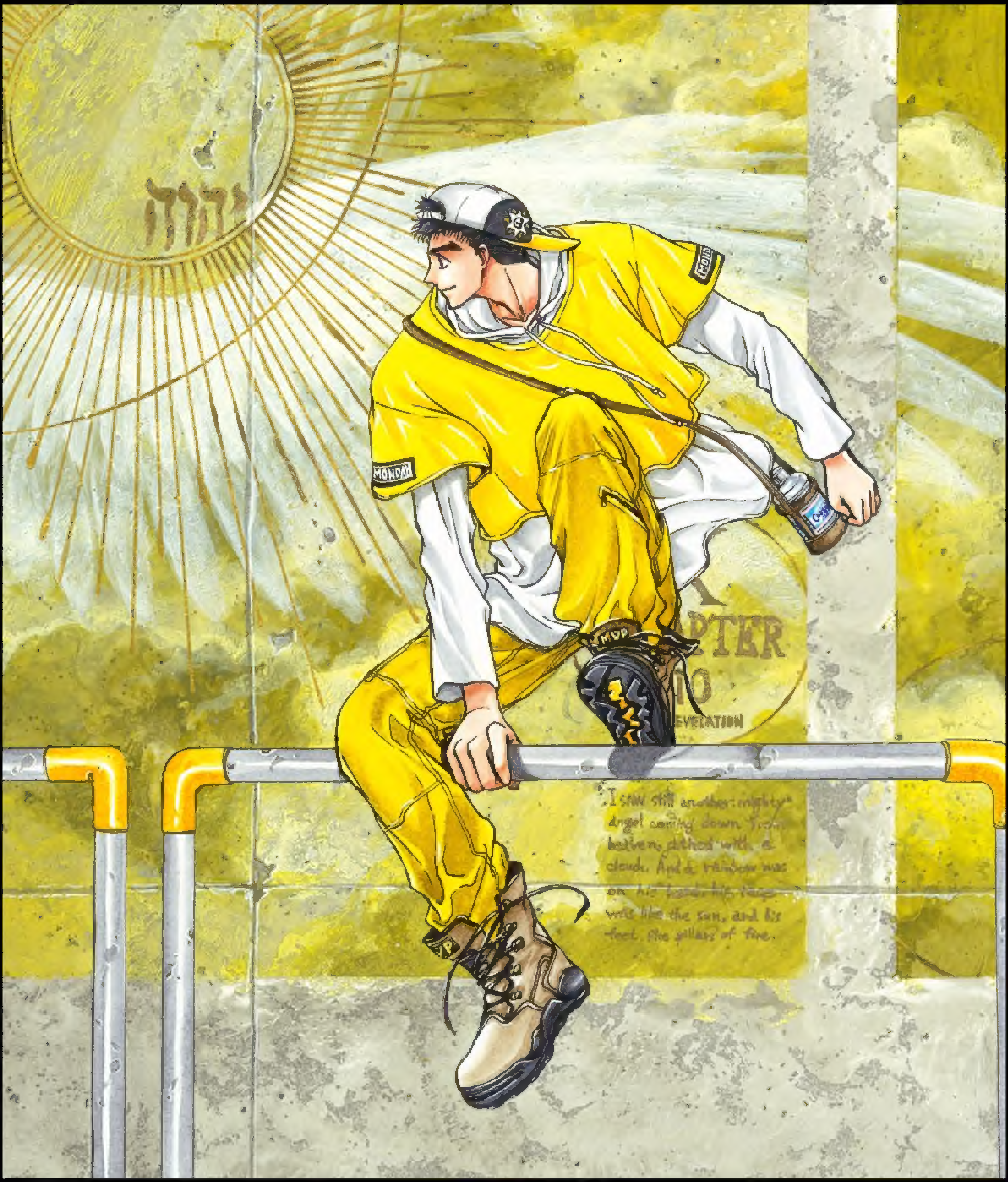
CLAMP

III 3•IN•1

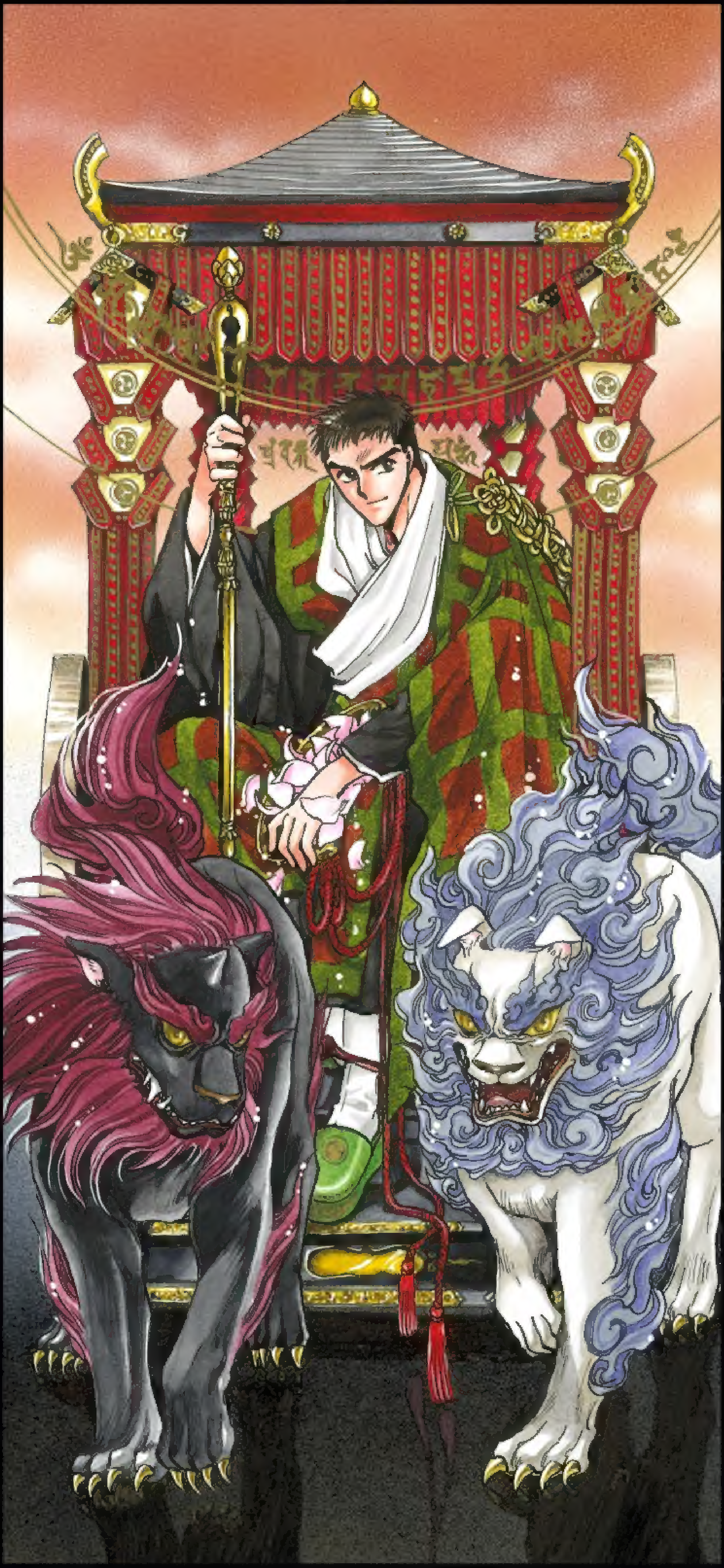
X

VOLUME 3, PART 1

THE SACRED SWORD I

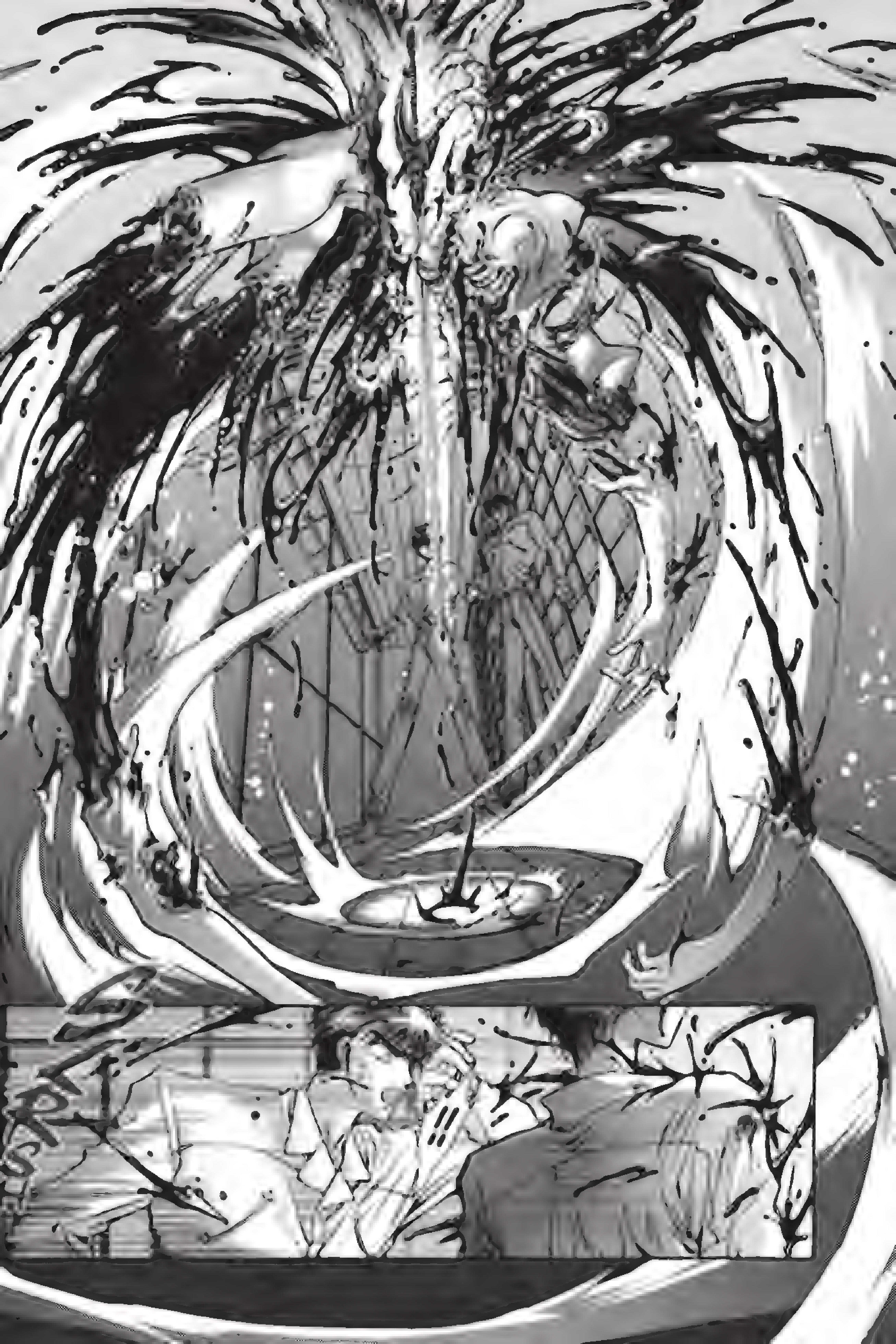

יהוה
MONDAY
MONDAY
MVP
X
APTER
10
EVELATION
I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire.

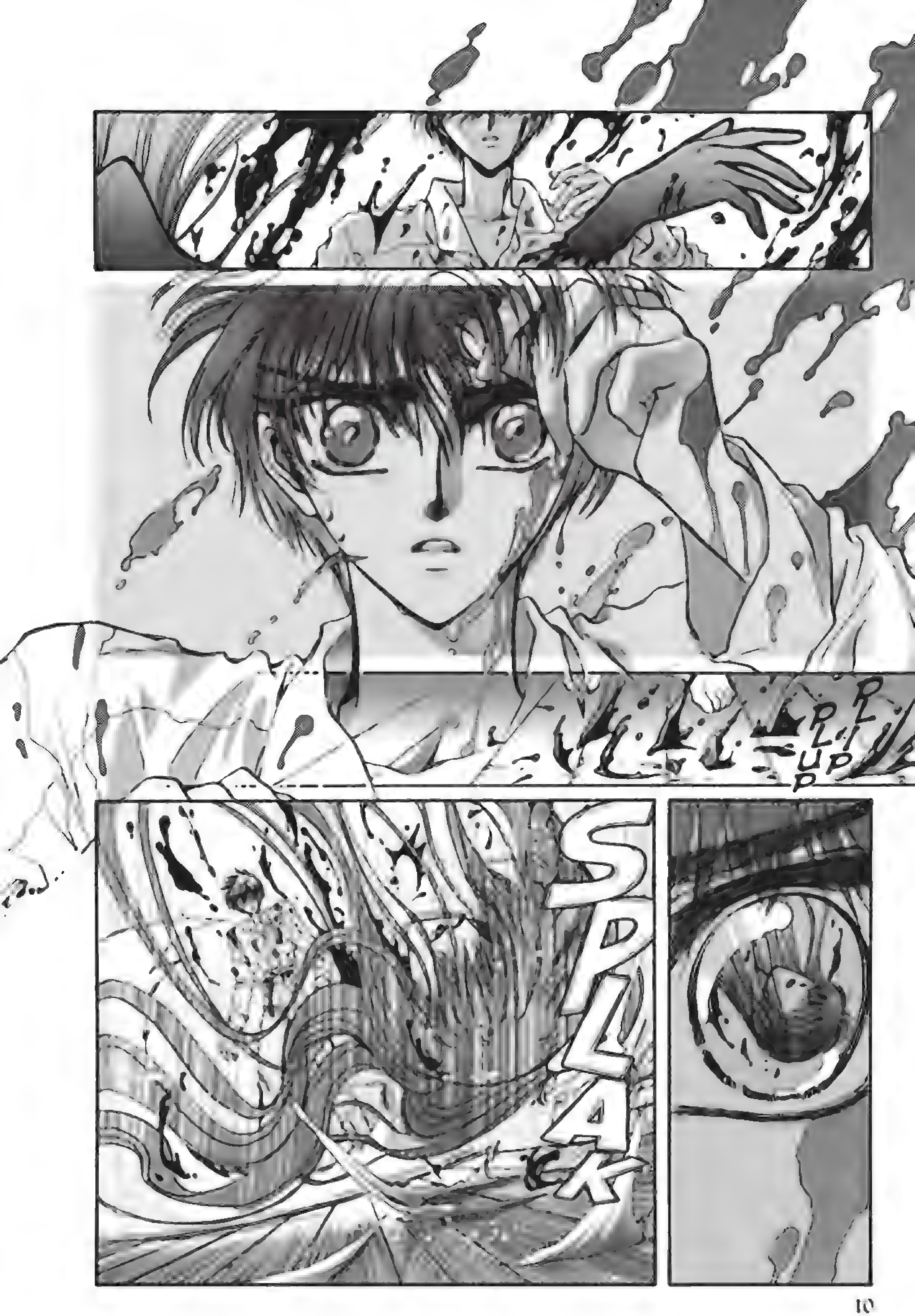
X

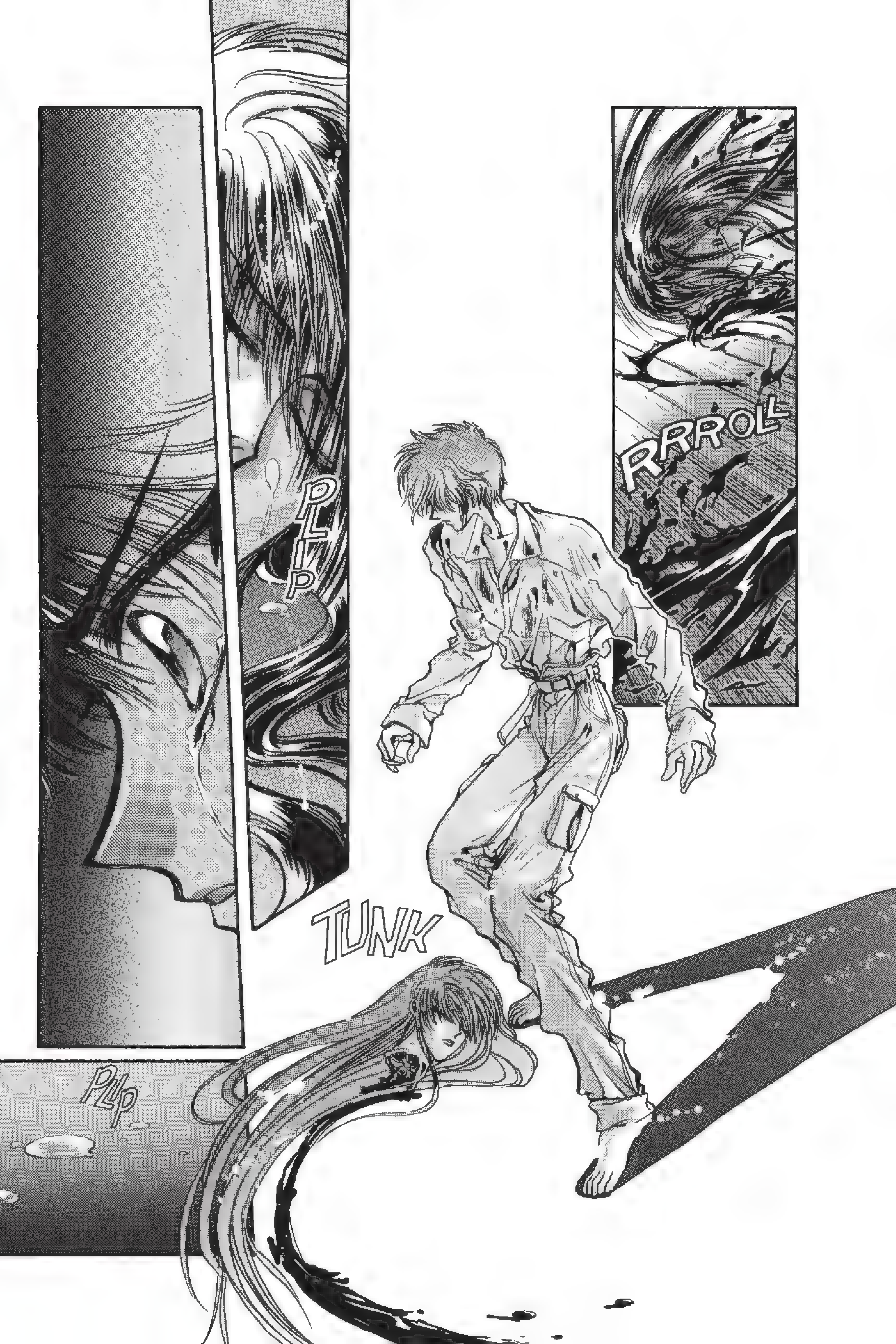


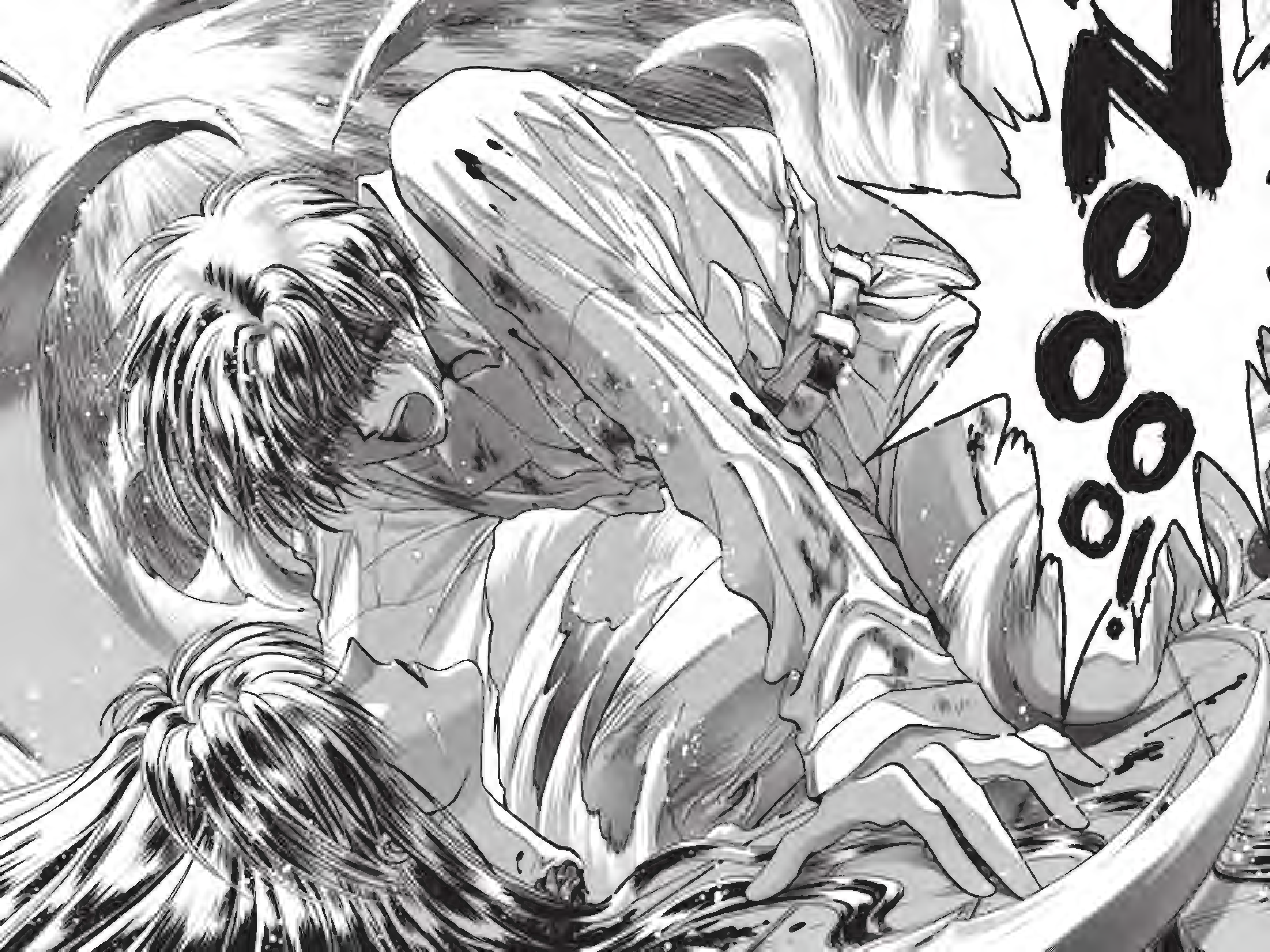
7 THE CHARIOT

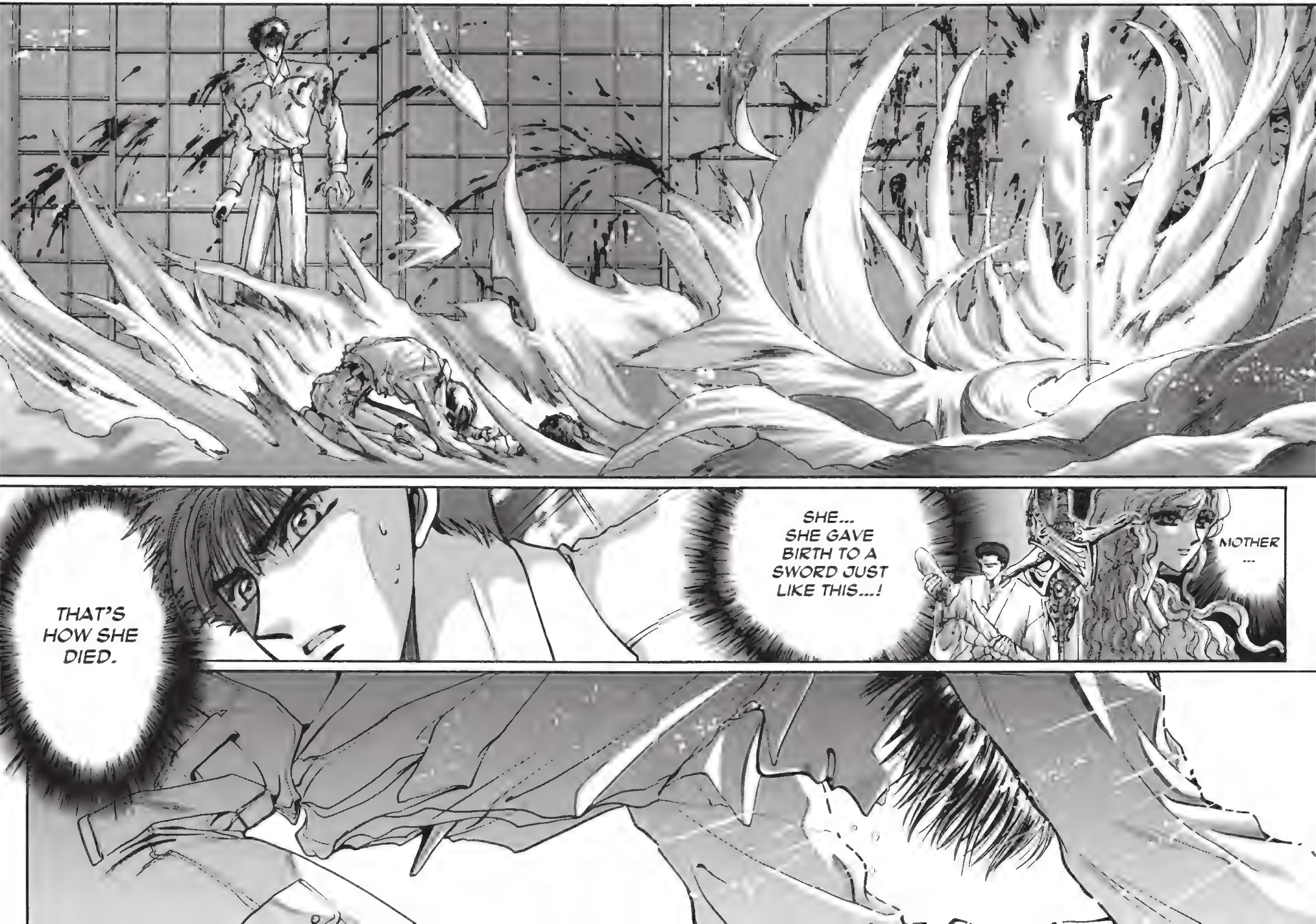
ה

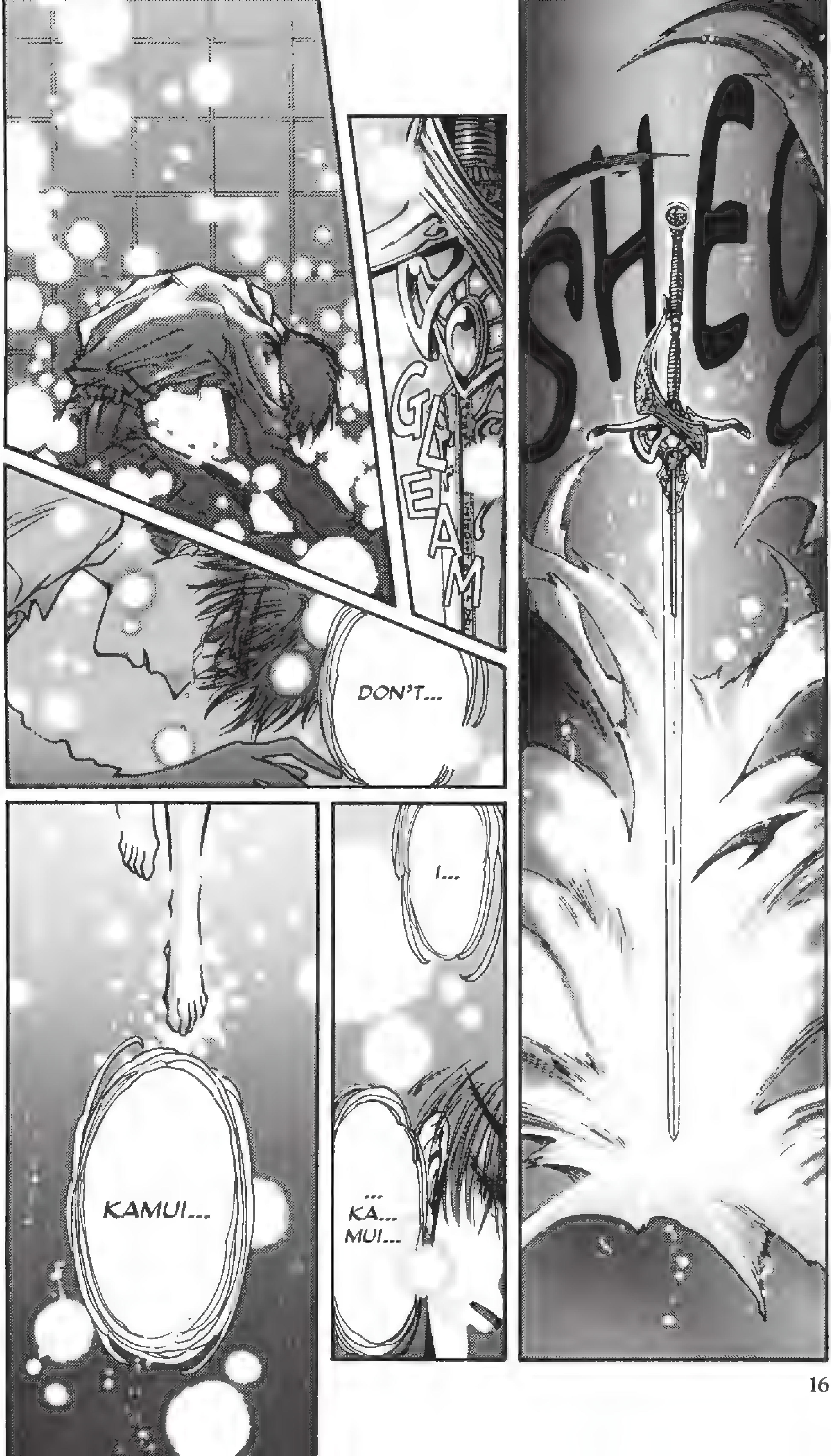


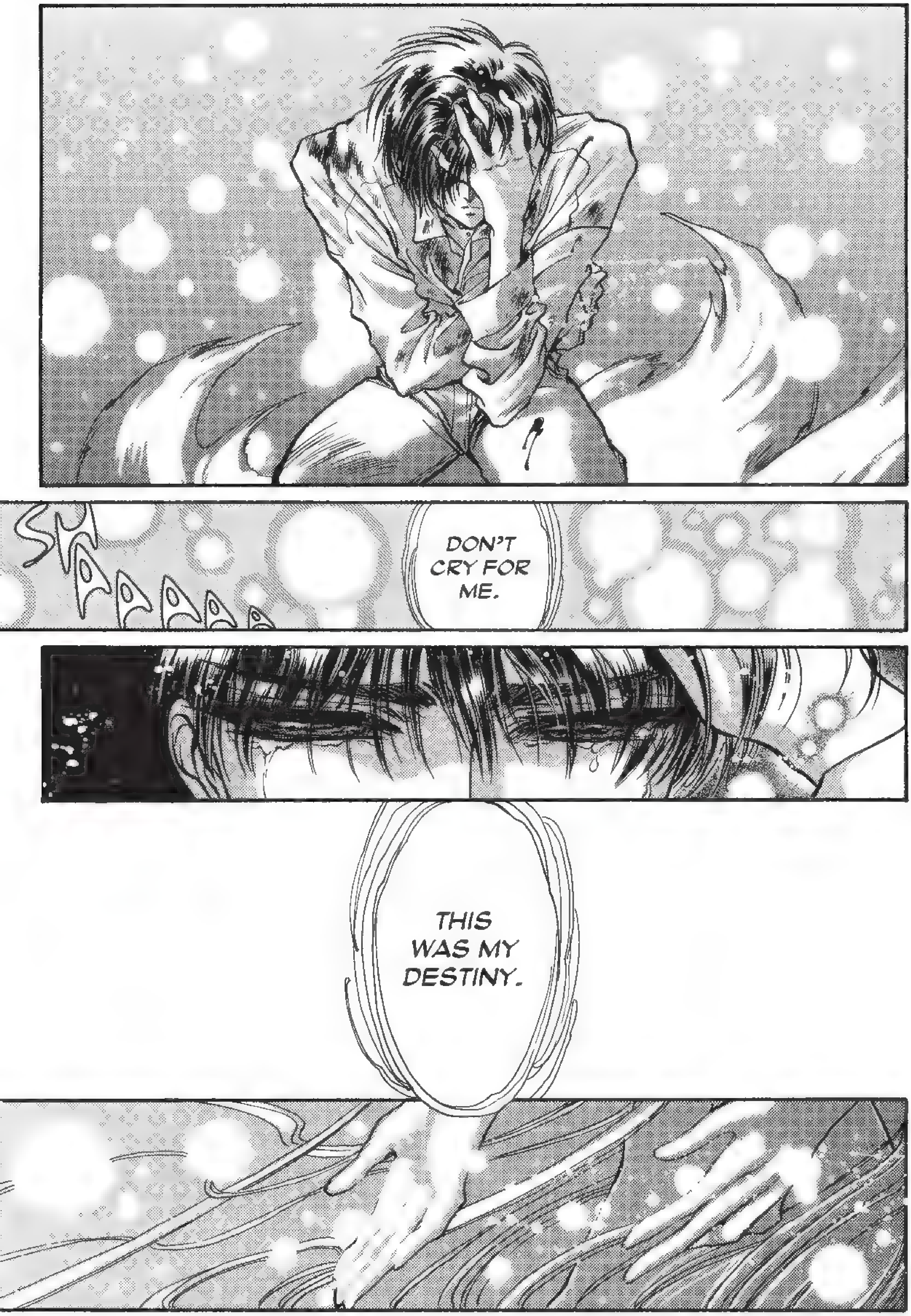

PLIP
PLUP
SPLACK

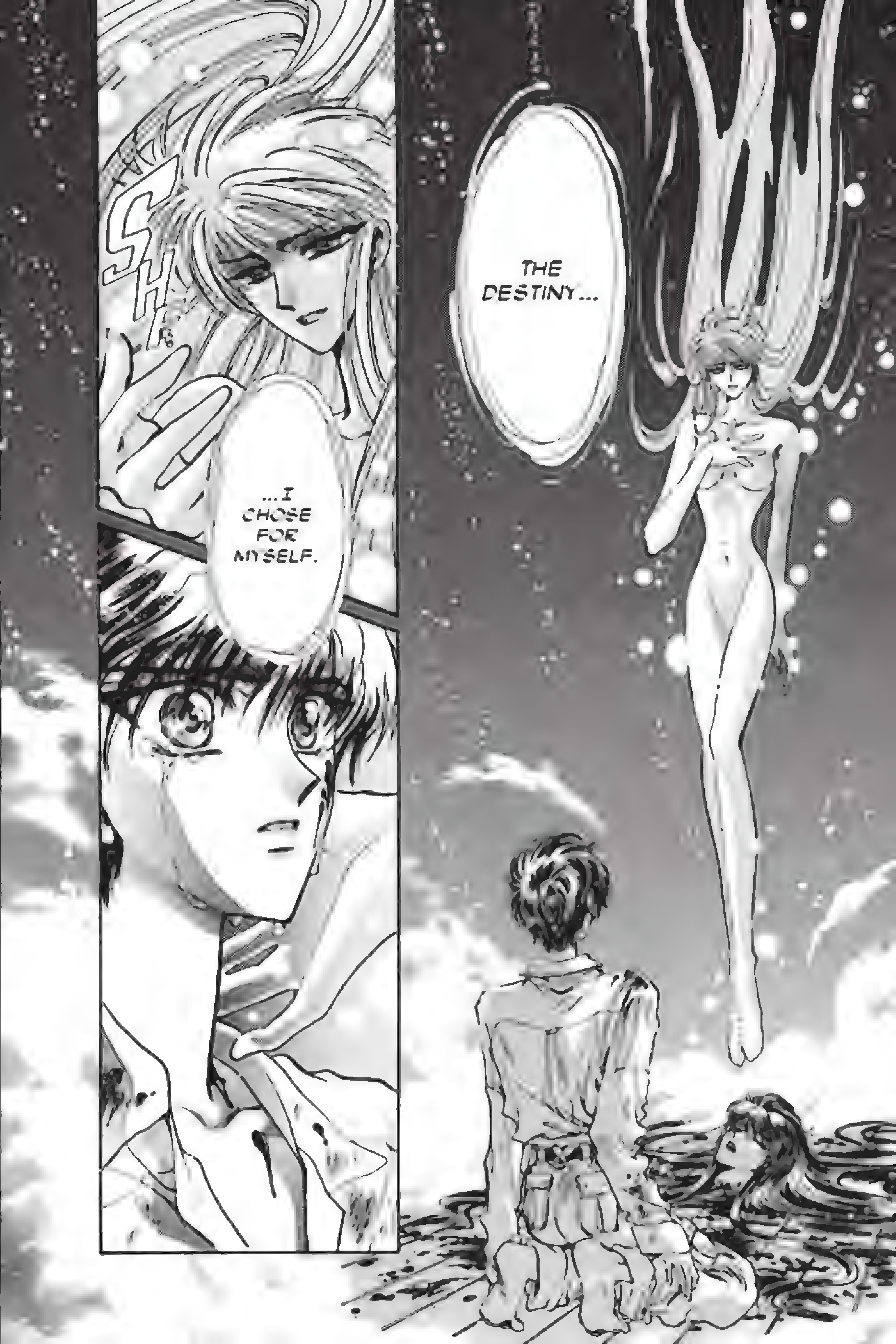

RRROLL
PLIP
TUNK
PLip

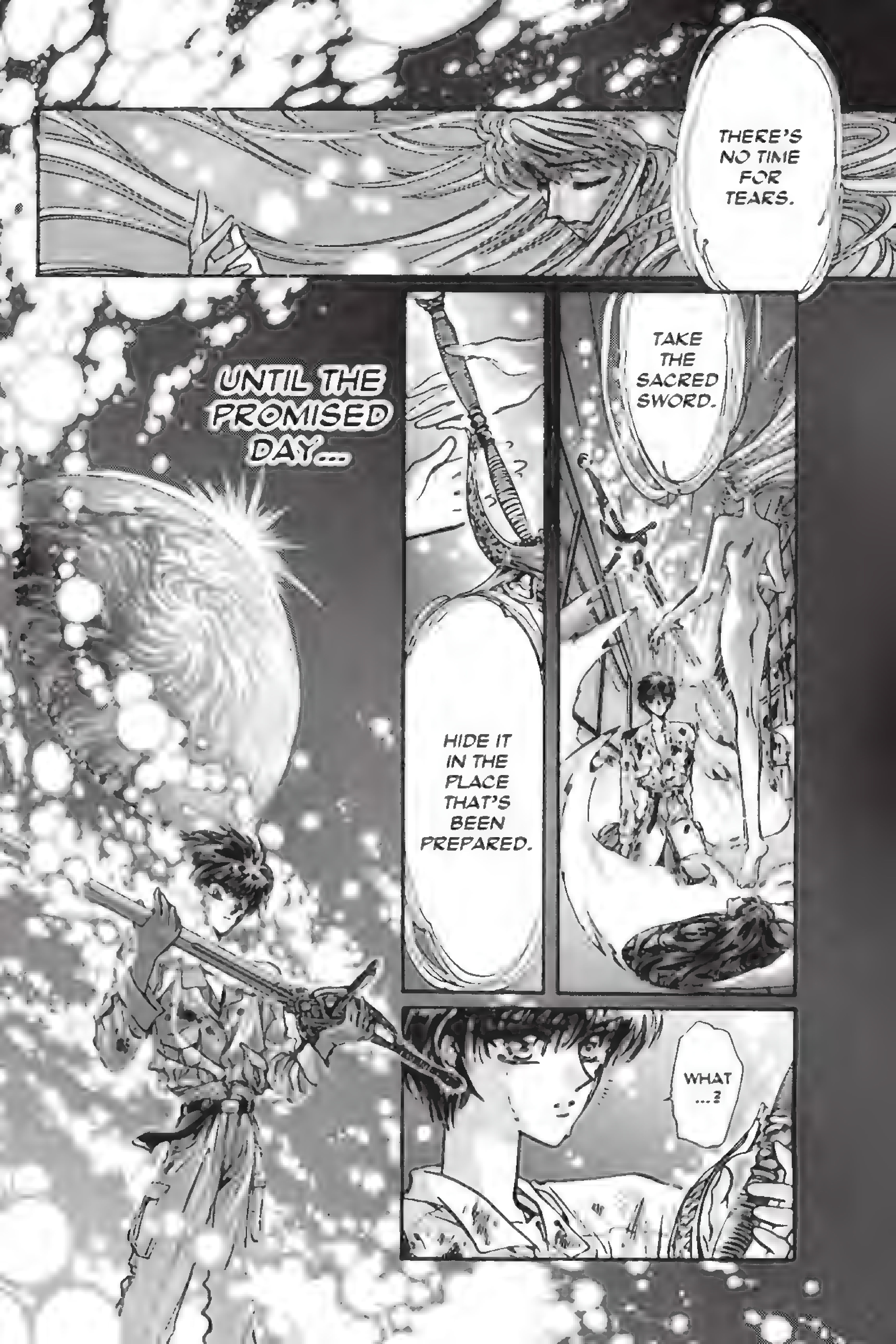

NOOOOO!

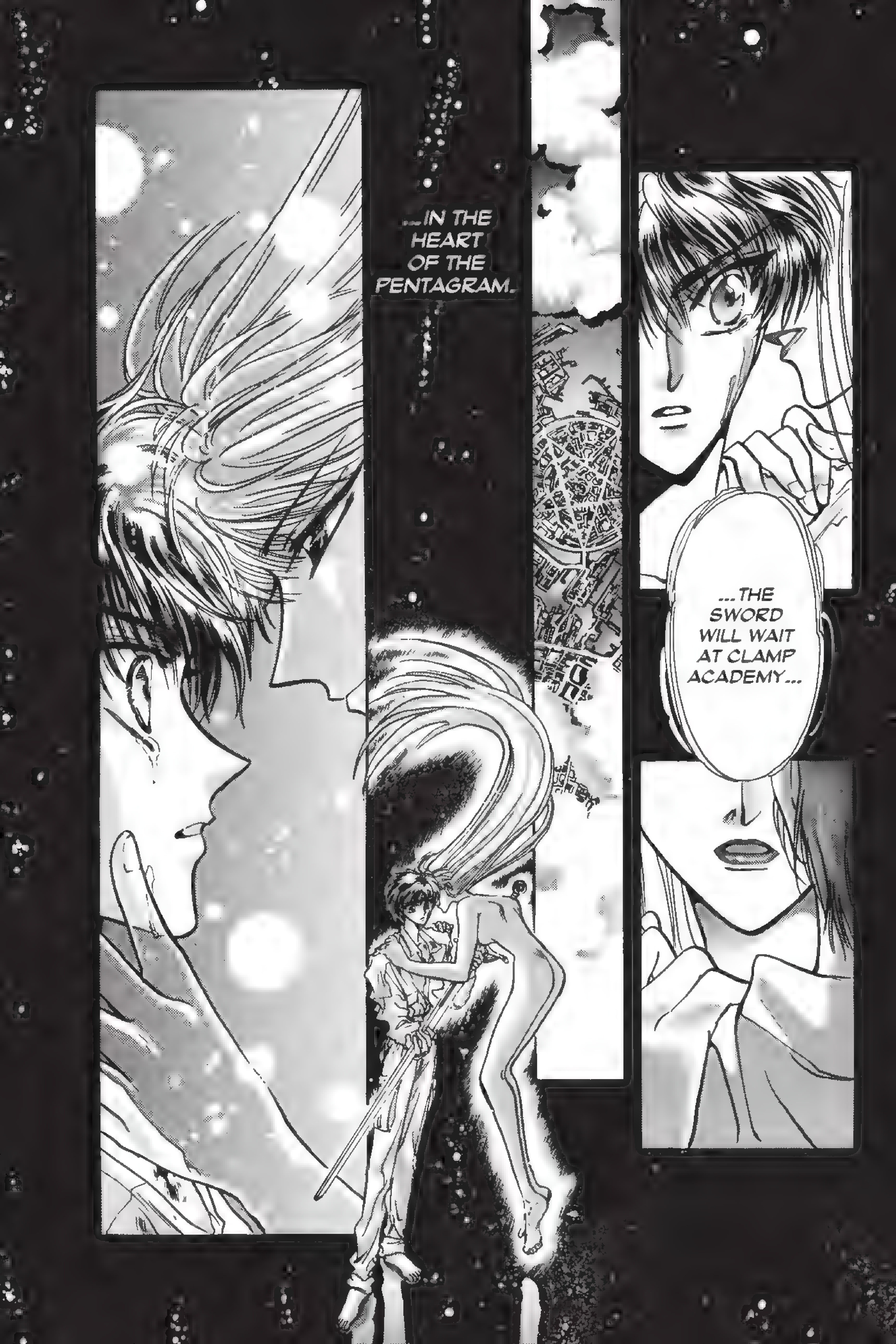

MOTHER
...
SHE...
SHE GAVE
BIRTH TO A
SWORD JUST
LIKE THIS...!
THAT'S
HOW SHE
DIED.

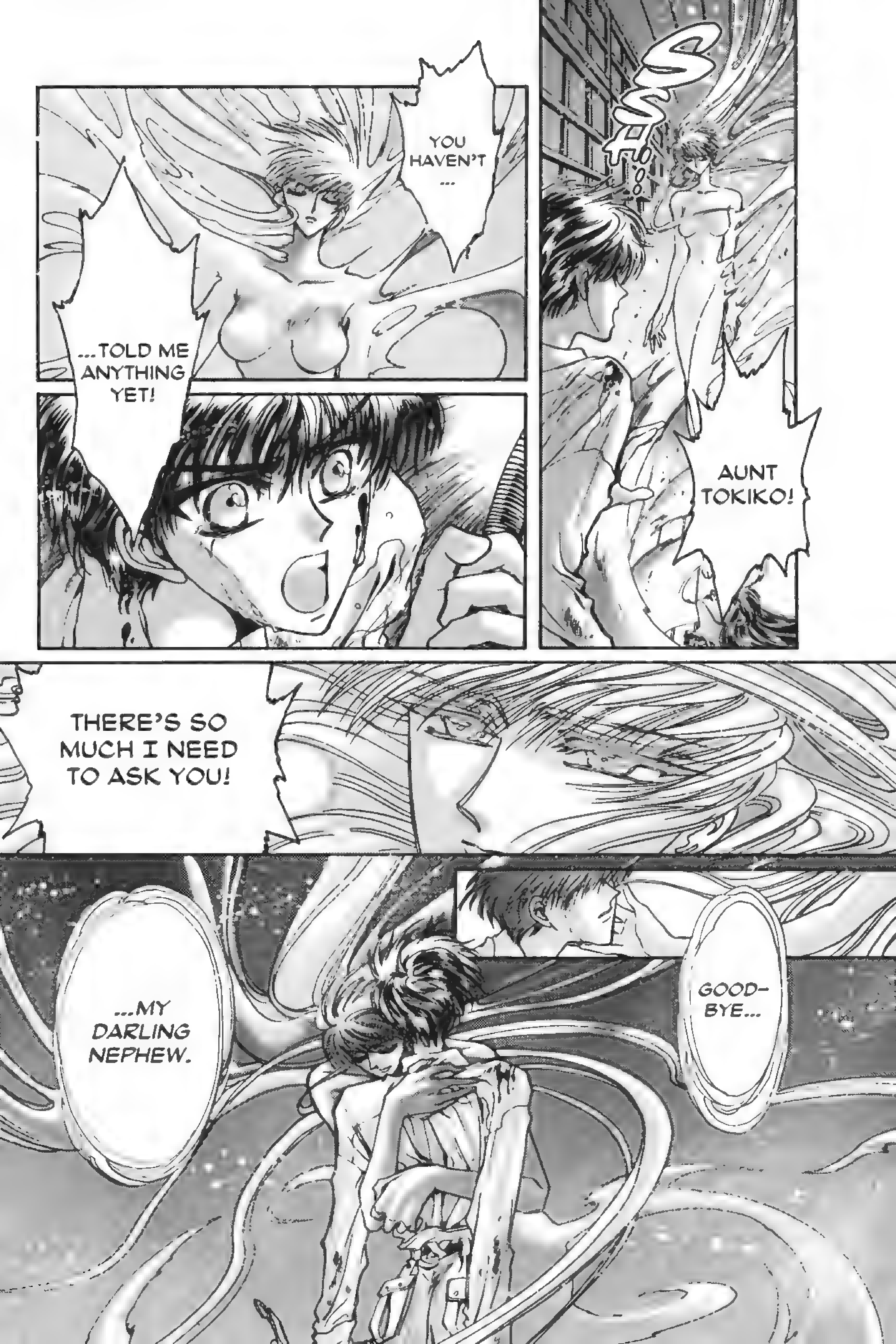

SHEO
GLEAM
DON'T...
I...
... KA... MUI...
KAMUI...

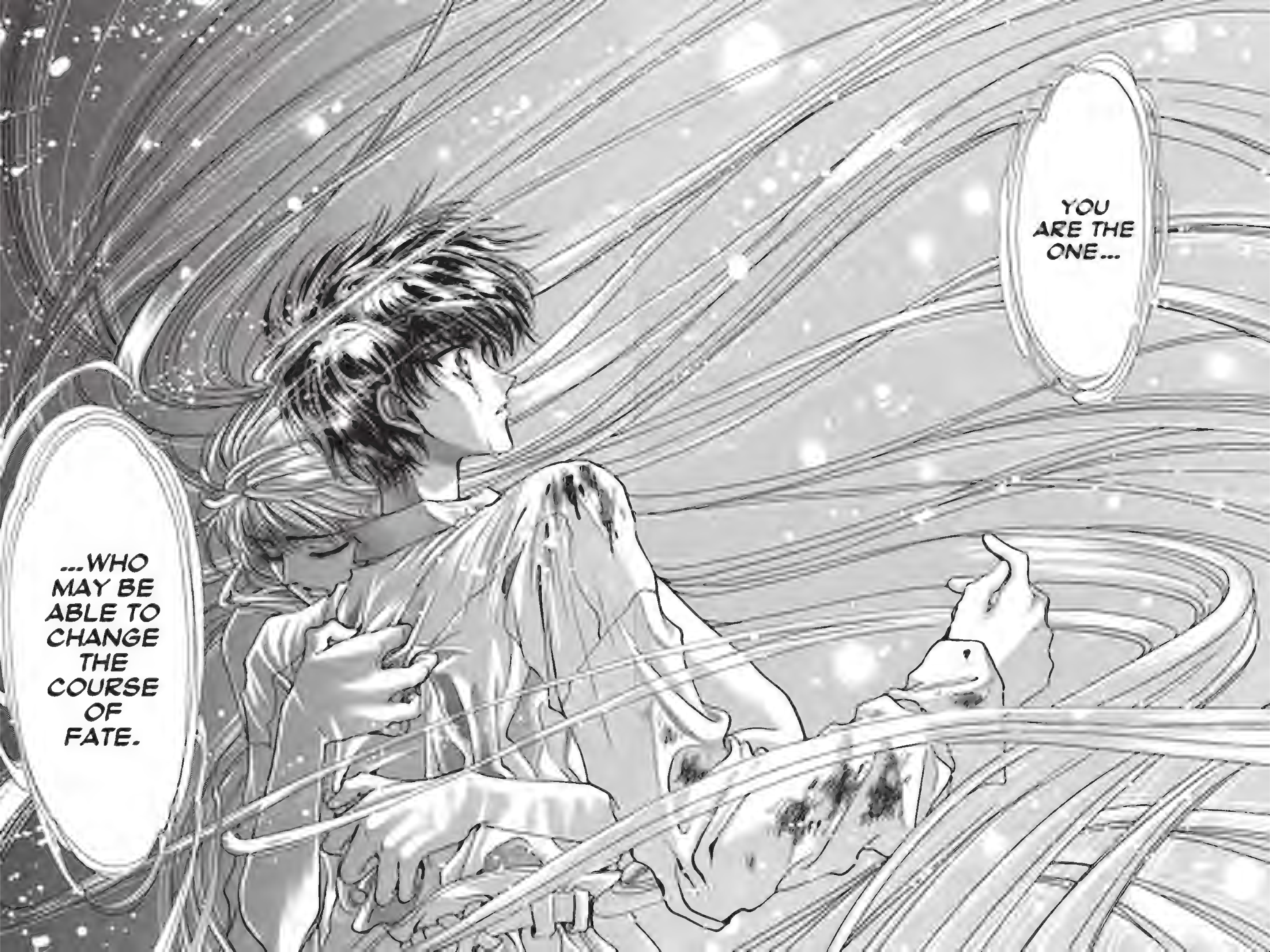

SHAAAAA
DON'T CRY FOR ME.
THIS WAS MY DESTINY.

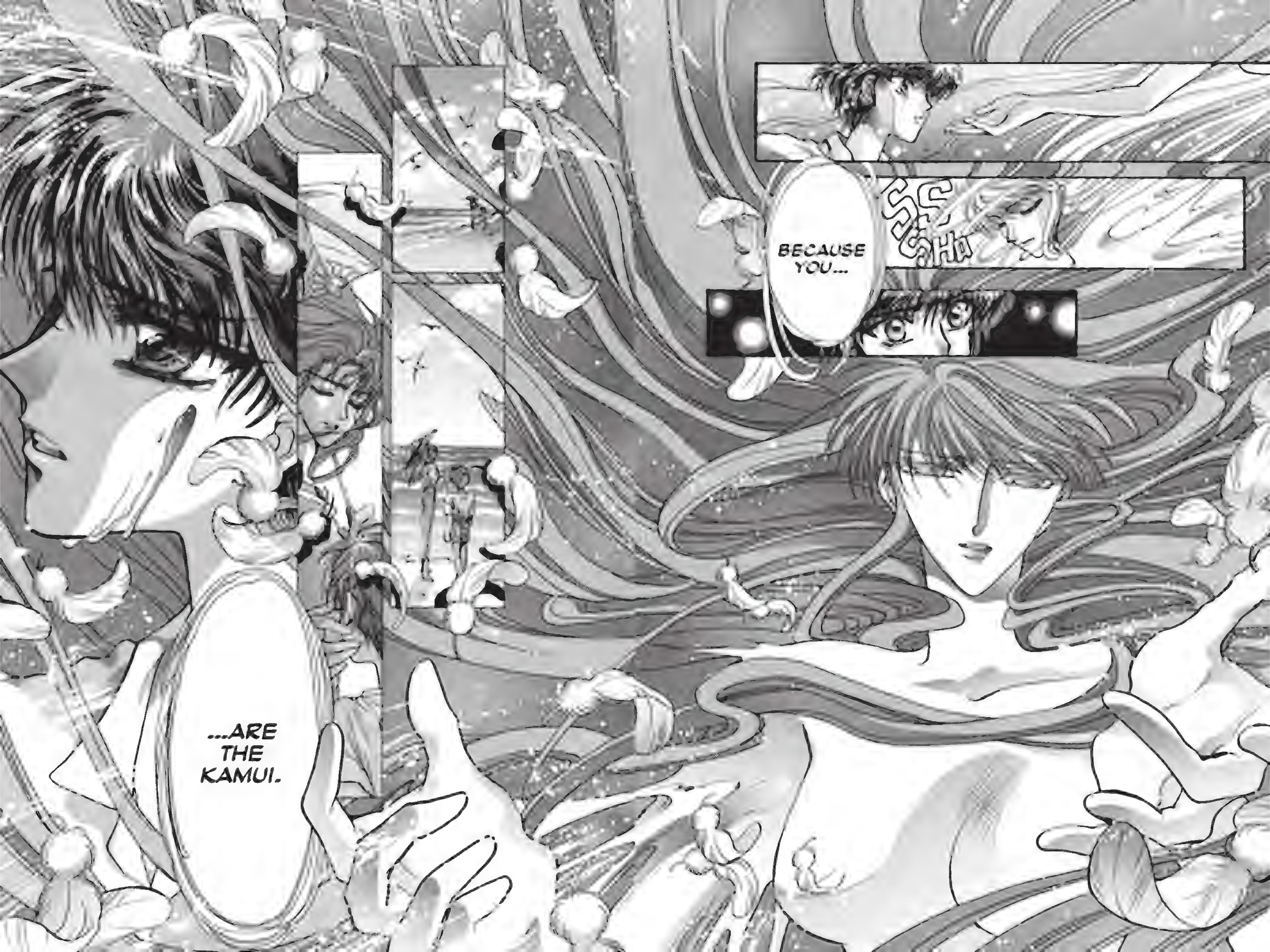

THE DESTINY...
...I CHOSE FOR MYSELF.
SHFR

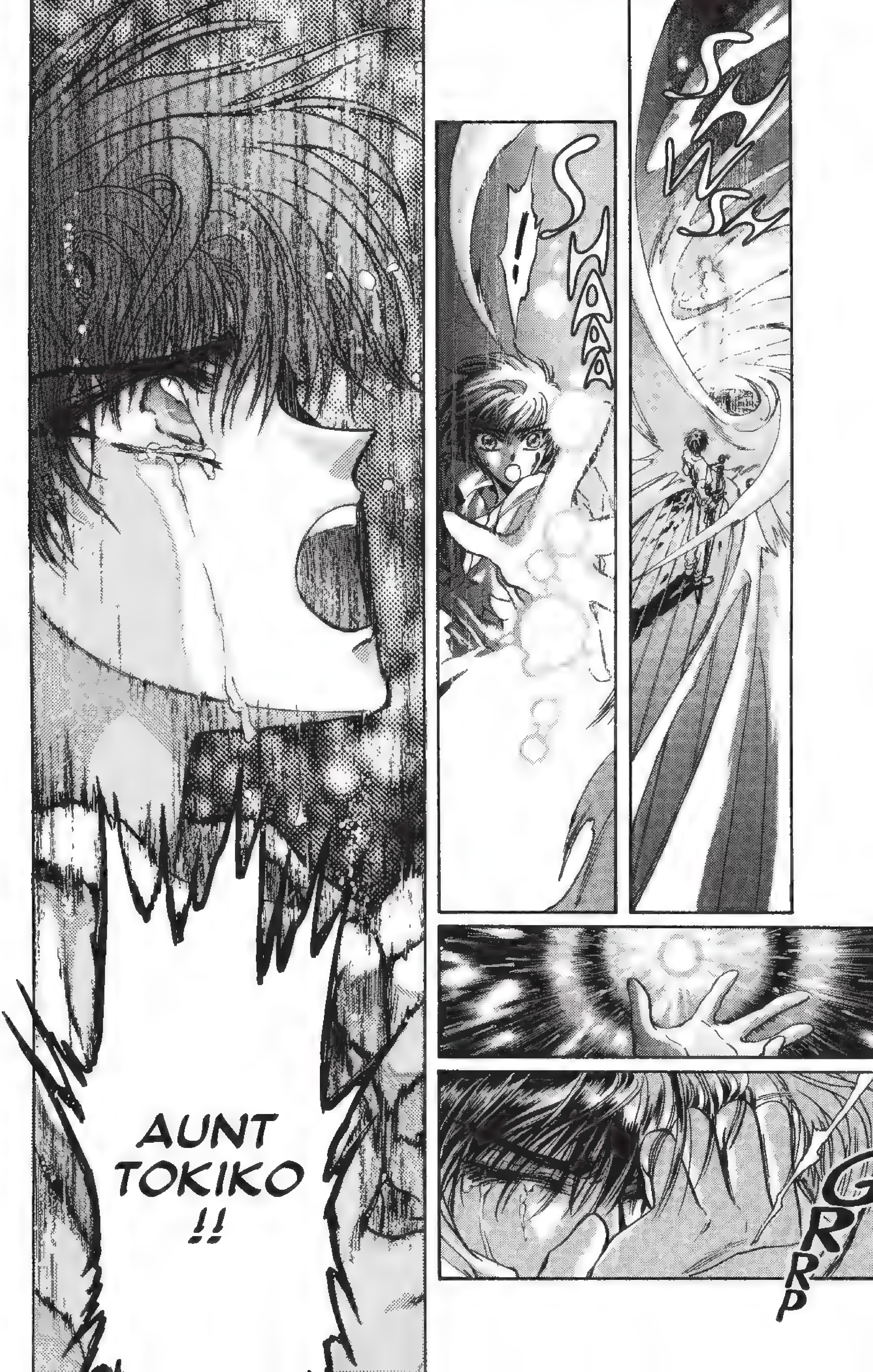

THERE'S NO TIME FOR TEARS.
TAKE THE SACRED SWORD.
HIDE IT IN THE PLACE THAT'S BEEN PREPARED.
UNTIL THE PROMISED DAY...
WHAT ...?

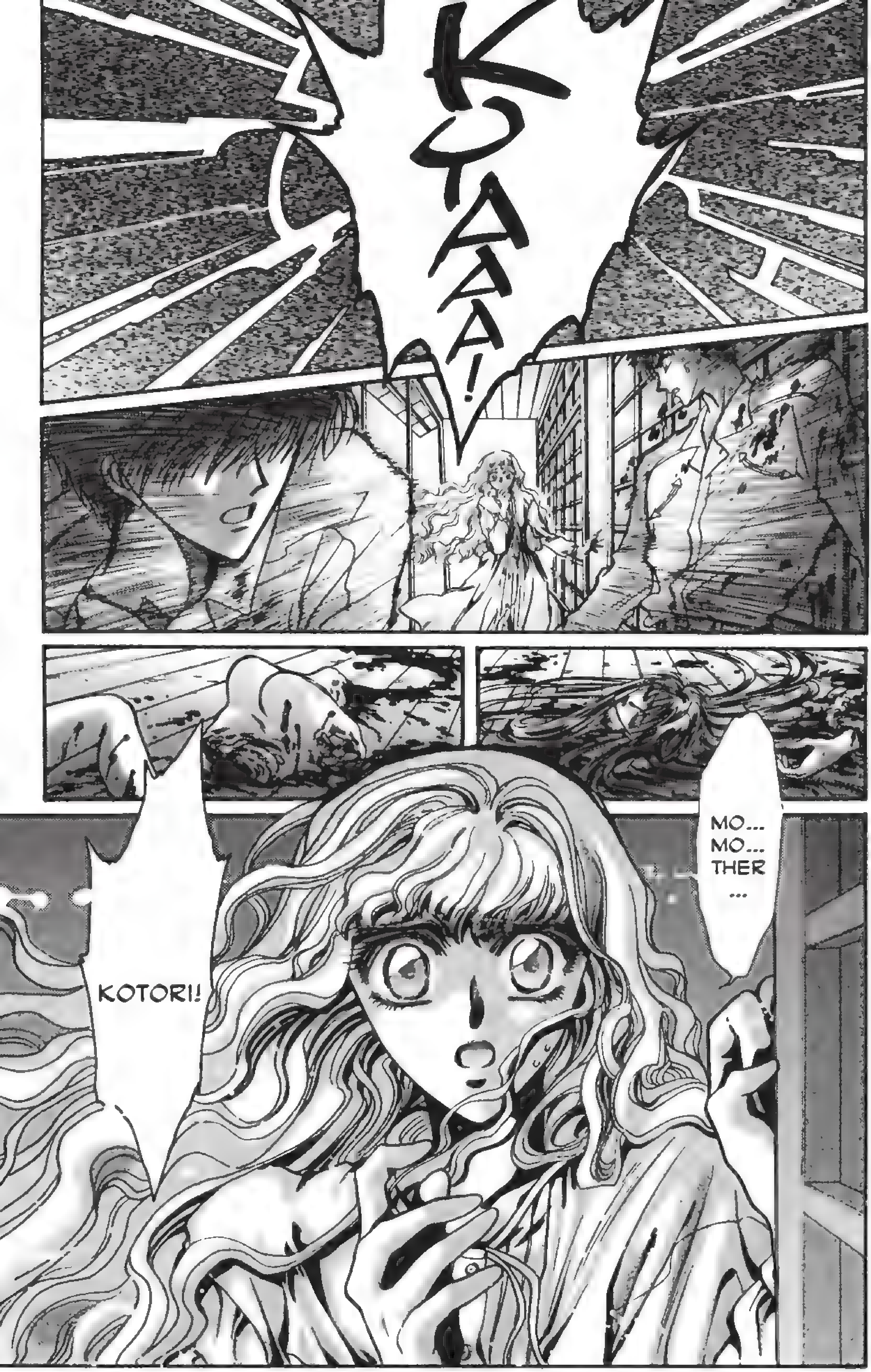

...THE SWORD WILL WAIT AT CLAMP ACADEMY...
...IN THE HEART OF THE PENTAGRAM...

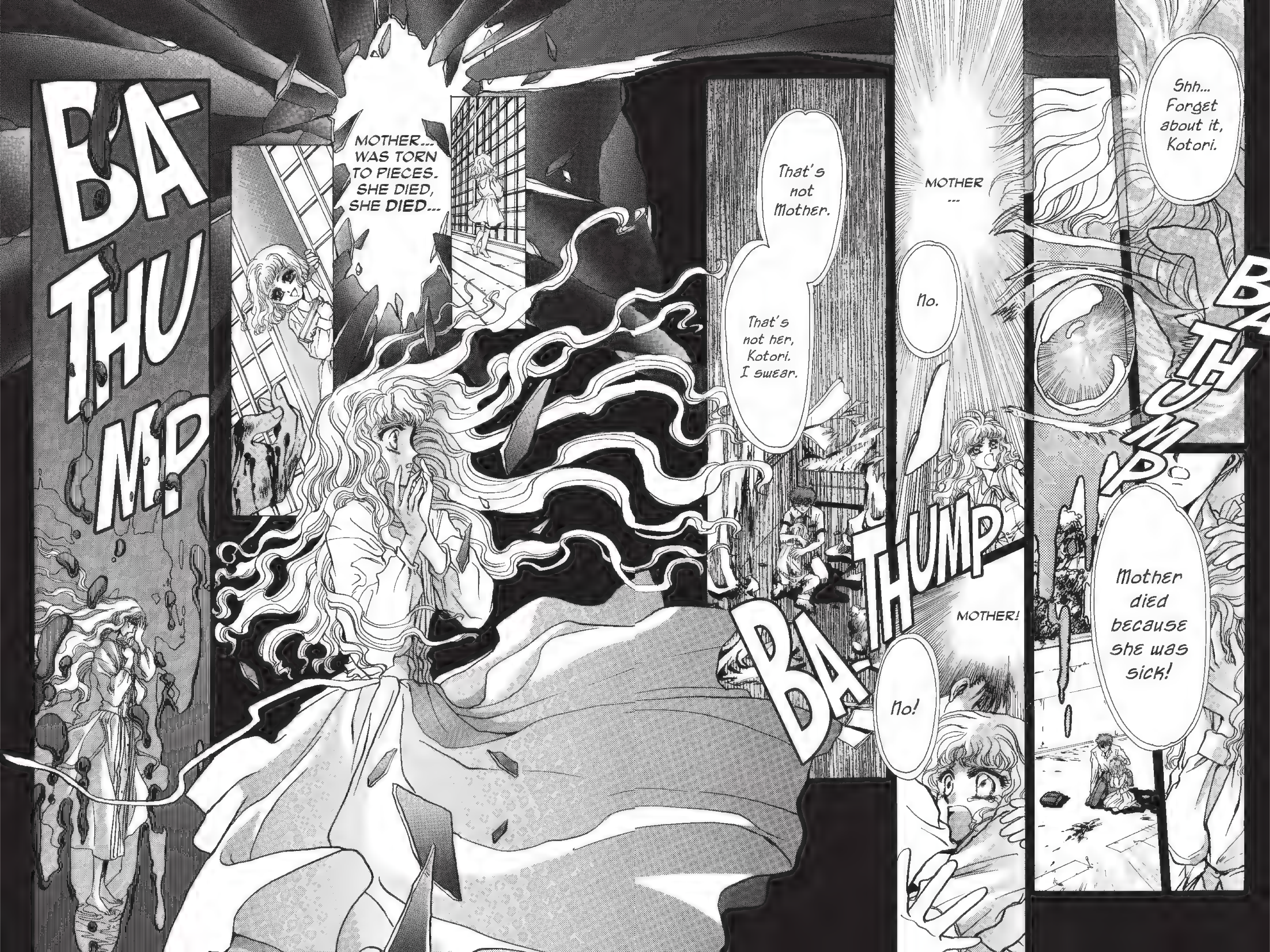

SSHOO...
AUNT TOKIKO!
YOU HAVEN'T ...
...TOLD ME ANYTHING YET!
THERE'S SO MUCH I NEED TO ASK YOU!
GOOD-BYE...
...MY DARLING NEPHEW.

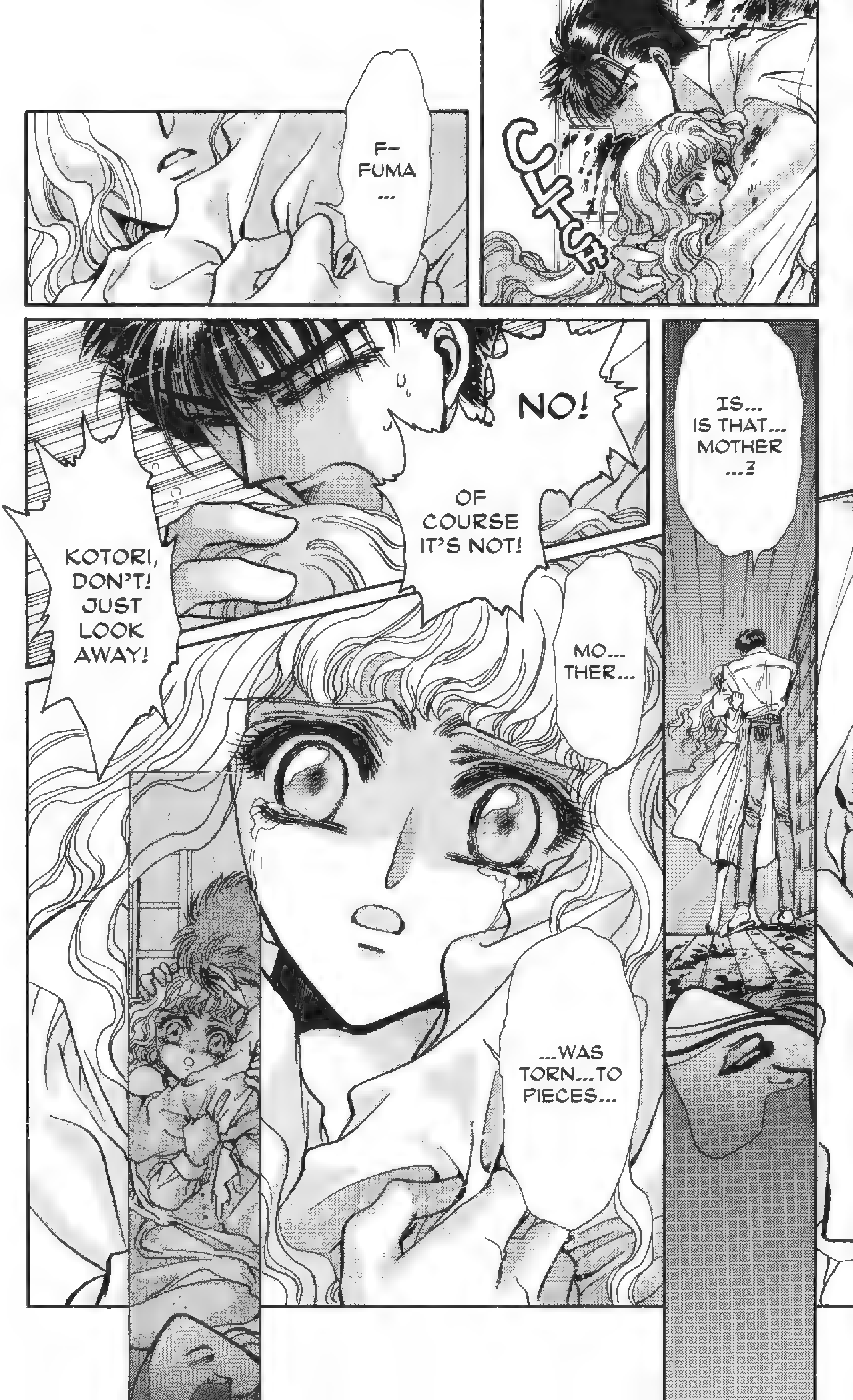

YOU ARE THE ONE...
...WHO MAY BE ABLE TO CHANGE THE COURSE OF FATE.

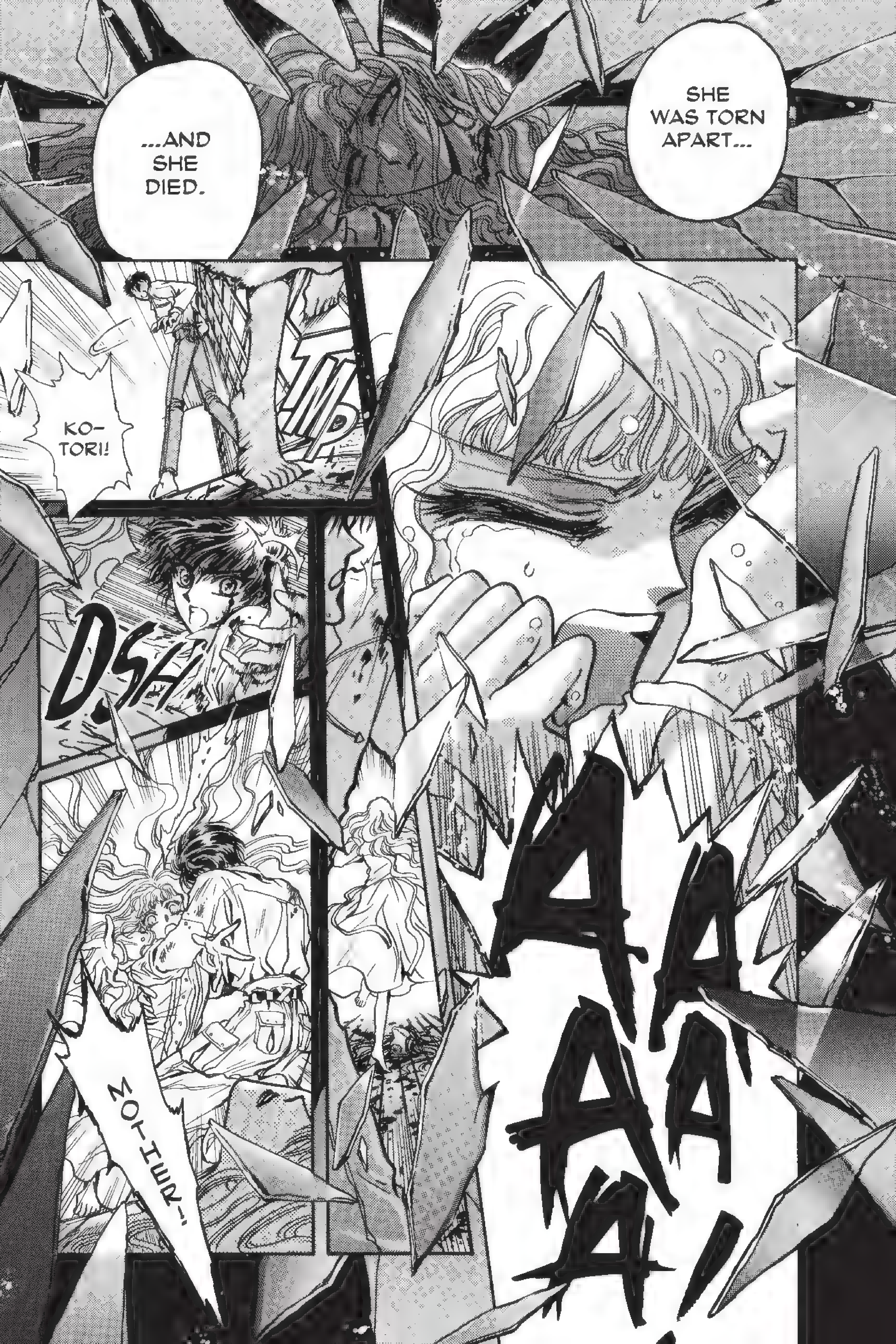

SSSHA
BECAUSE YOU...
...ARE THE KAMUI.


SWSH
SHAAAA
!
GRRP
AUNT TOKIKO !!

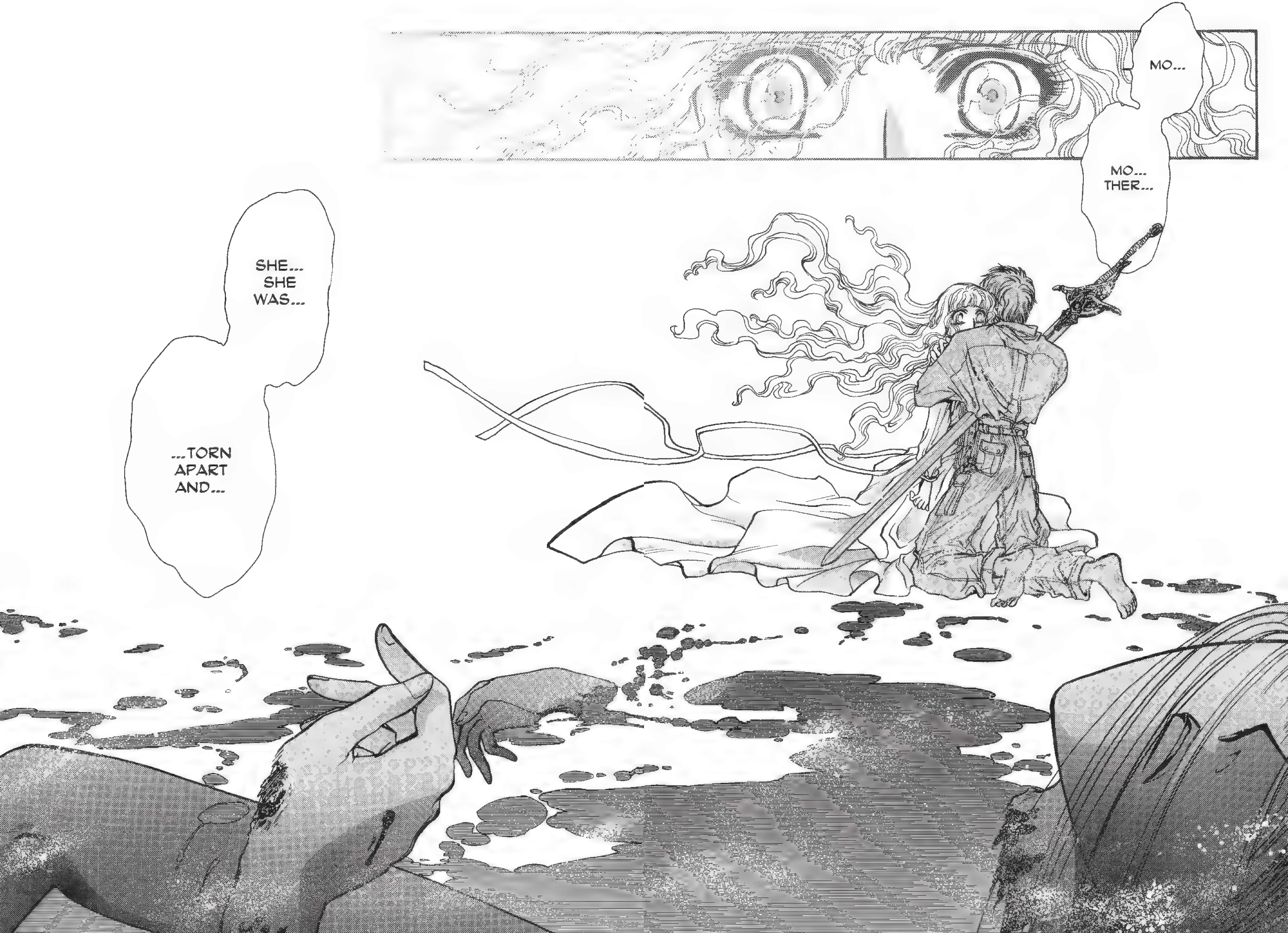

KYAAA!
MO... MO... THER ...
KOTORI!

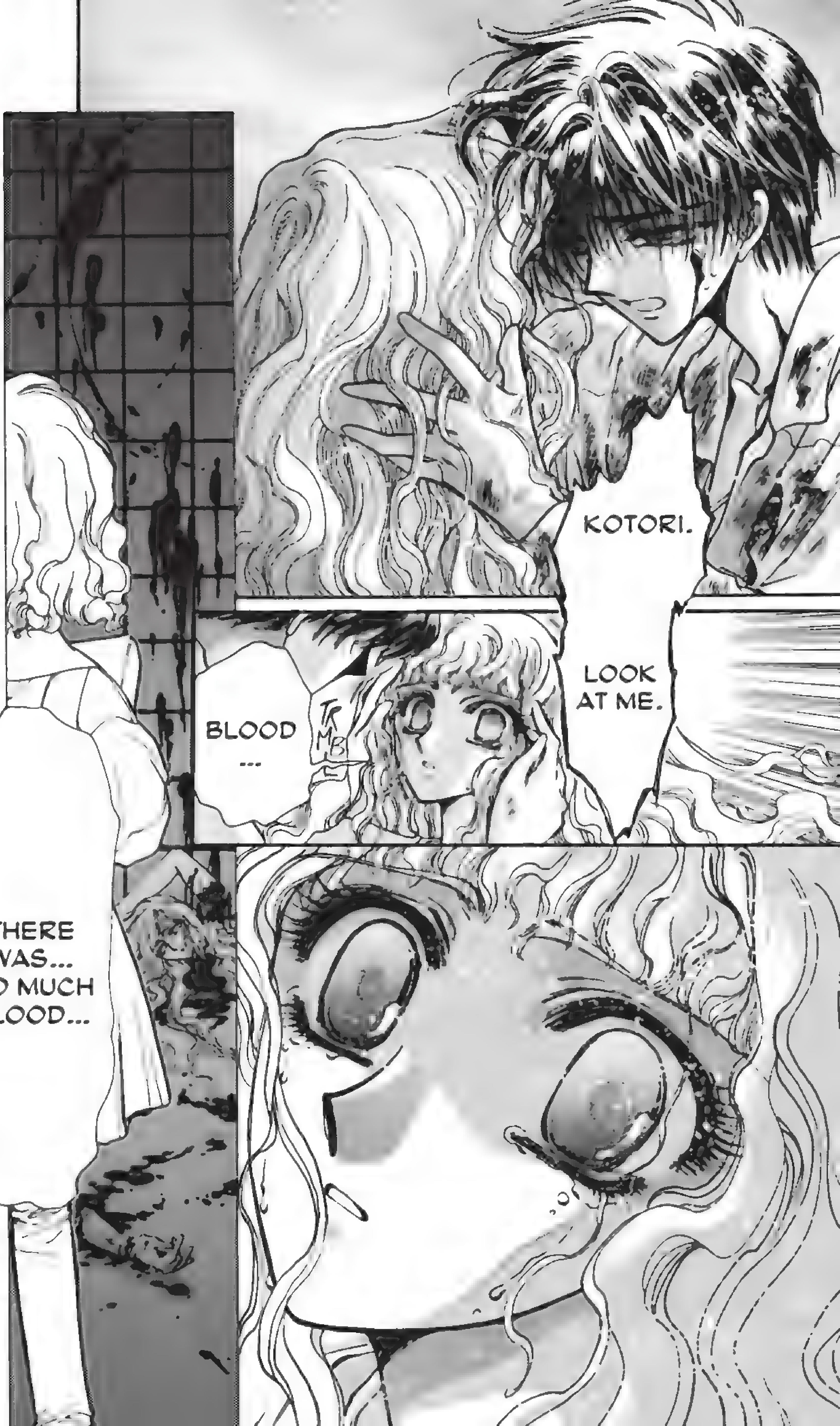

Shh... Forget about it, Kotori.
BA-THUMP
Mother died because she was sick!
MOTHER...
No.
MOTHER!
No!
BA-THUMP
That's not Mother.
That's not her, Kotori. I swear.
MOTHER... WAS TORN TO PIECES. SHE DIED, SHE DIED...
BA-THUMP

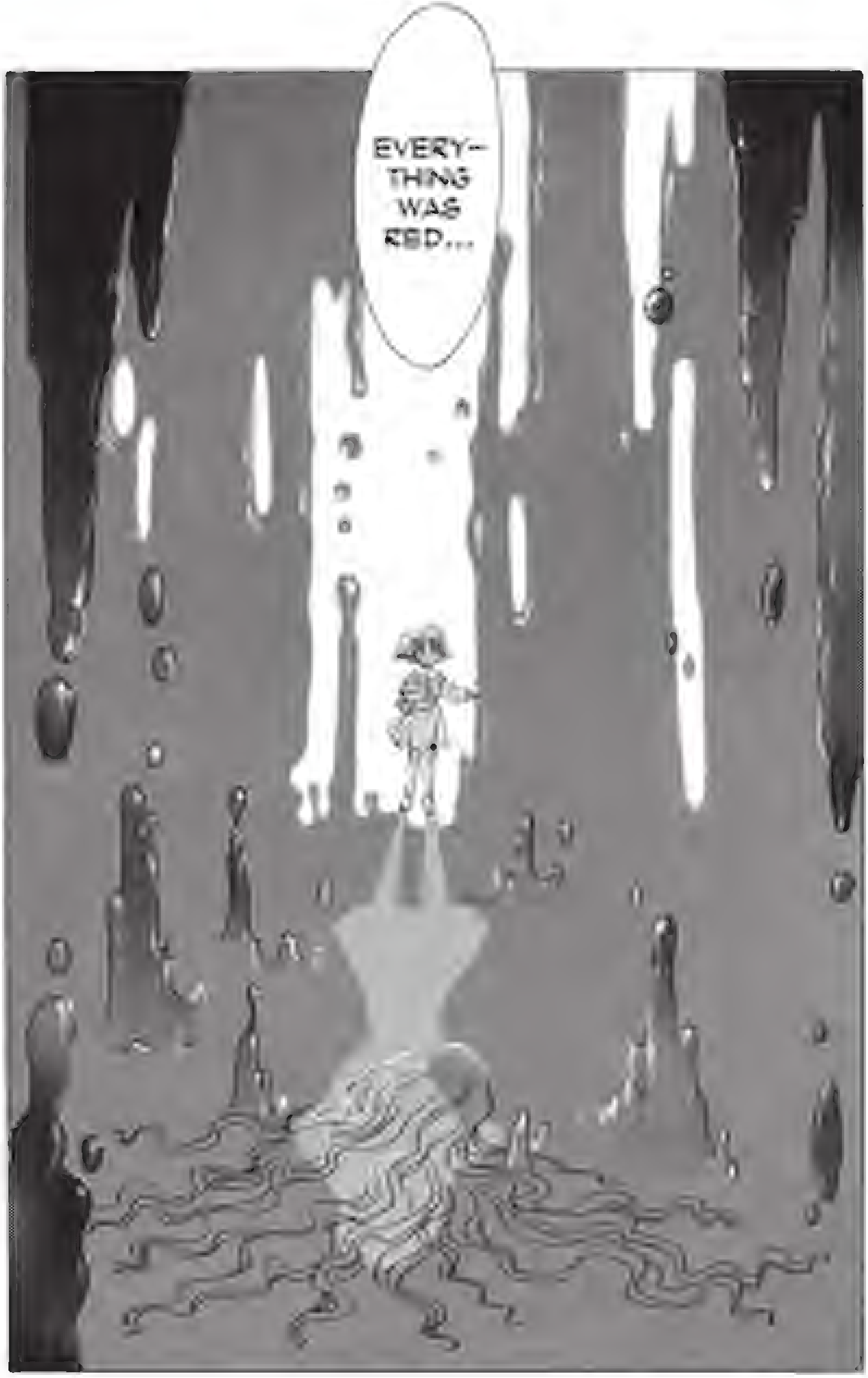

CLICK
F– FUMA …
IS… IS THAT… MOTHER …?
NO!
OF COURSE IT'S NOT!
KOTORI, DON'T! JUST LOOK AWAY!
MO… THER…
…WAS TORN…TO PIECES…

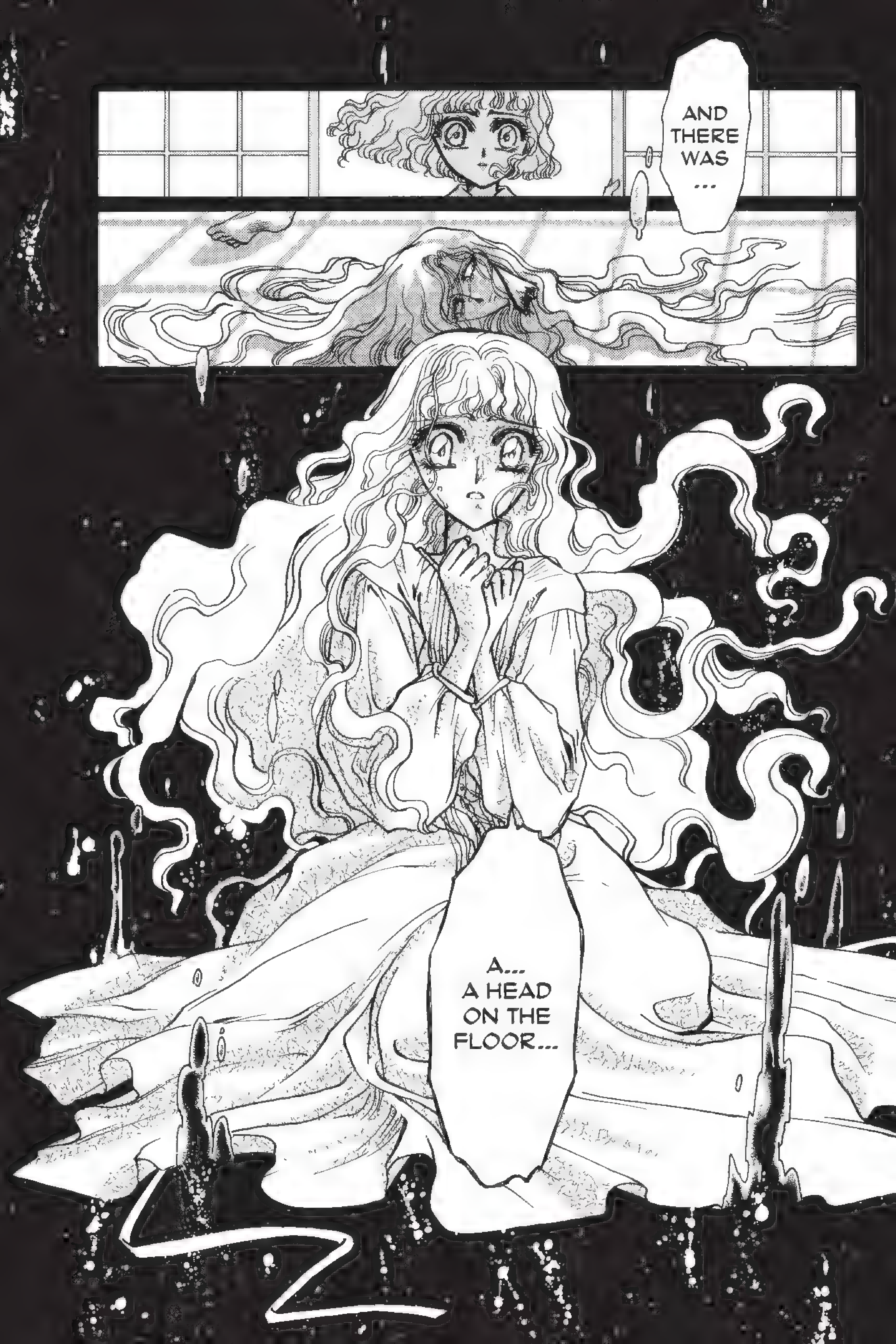

SHE WAS TORN APART...
...AND SHE DIED.
KO-TORI!
DSH
MOTHER!
AAAAAA!

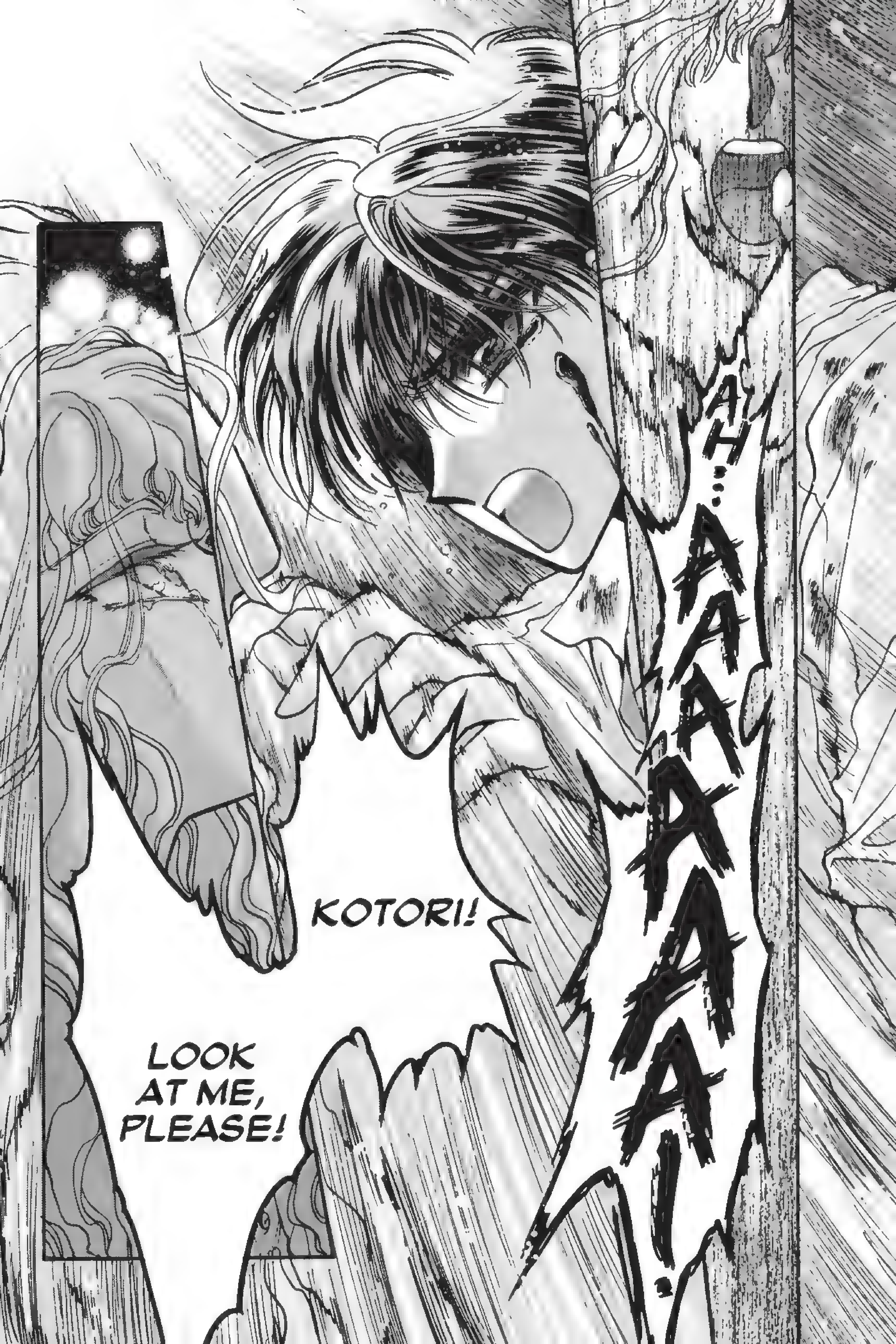
NOOOOO!!

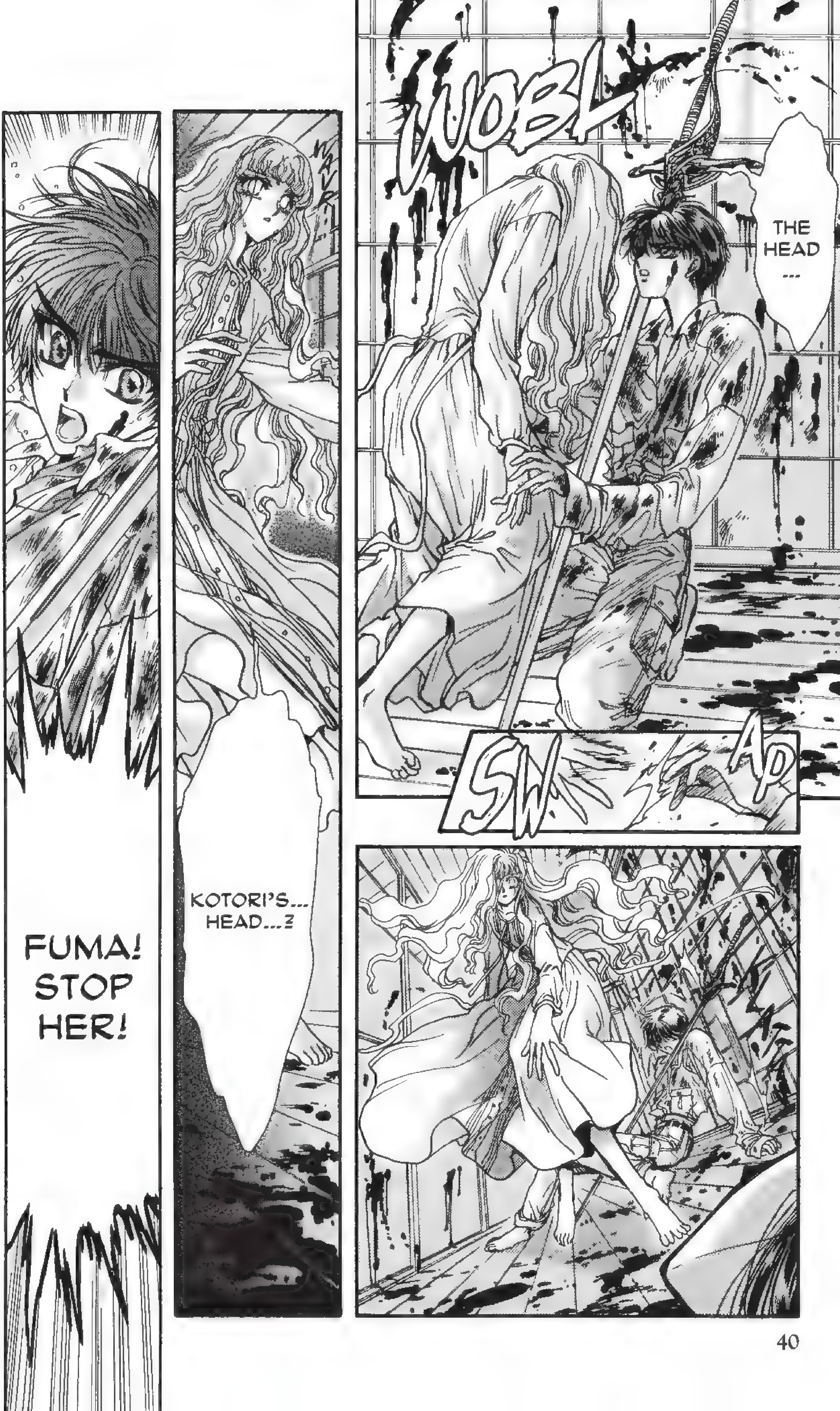

MO...
MO... THER...
SHE... SHE WAS...
...TORN APART AND...

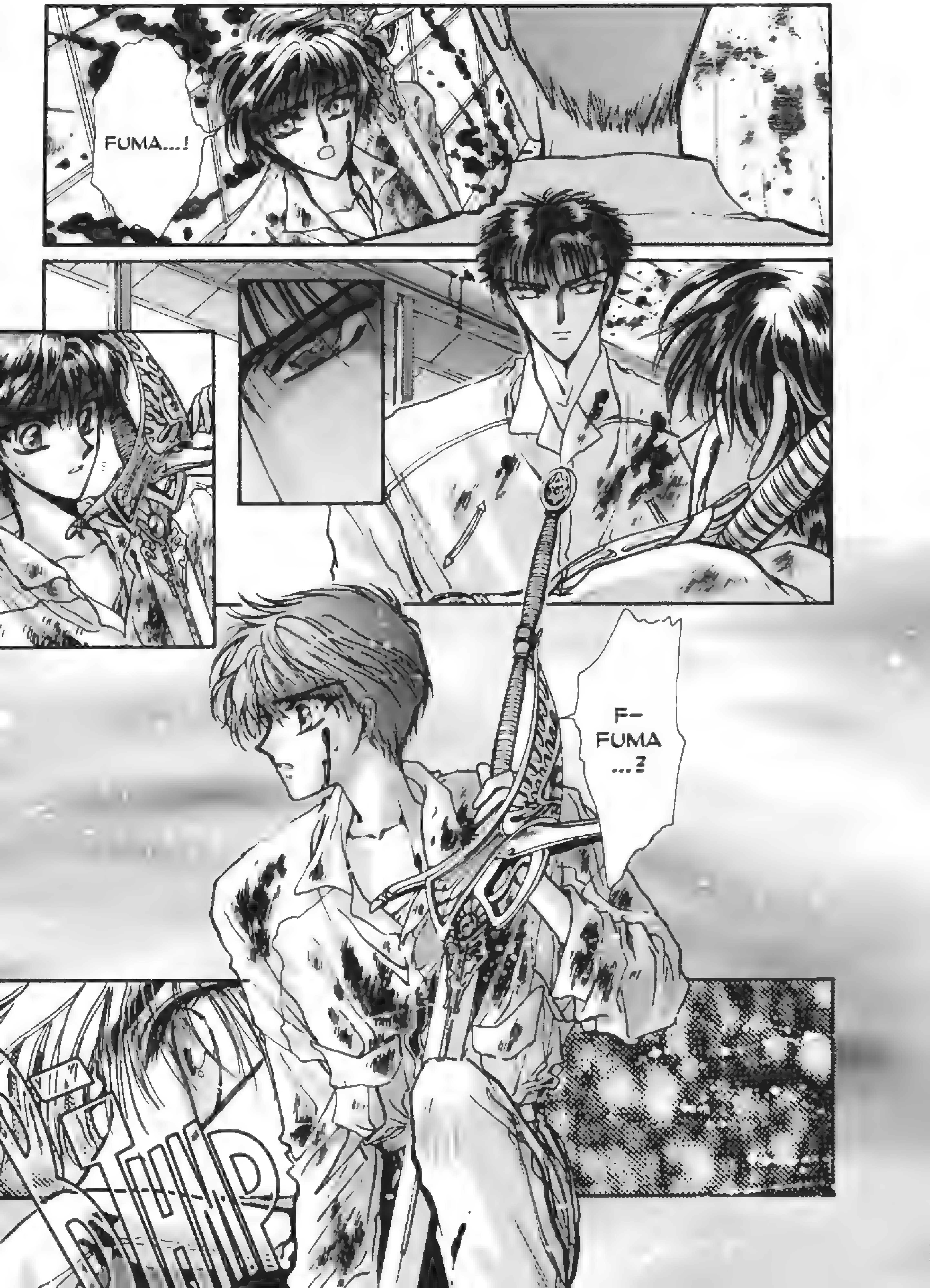

KOTORI.
LOOK AT ME.
BLOOD ...
TRMB
THERE WAS... SO MUCH BLOOD...

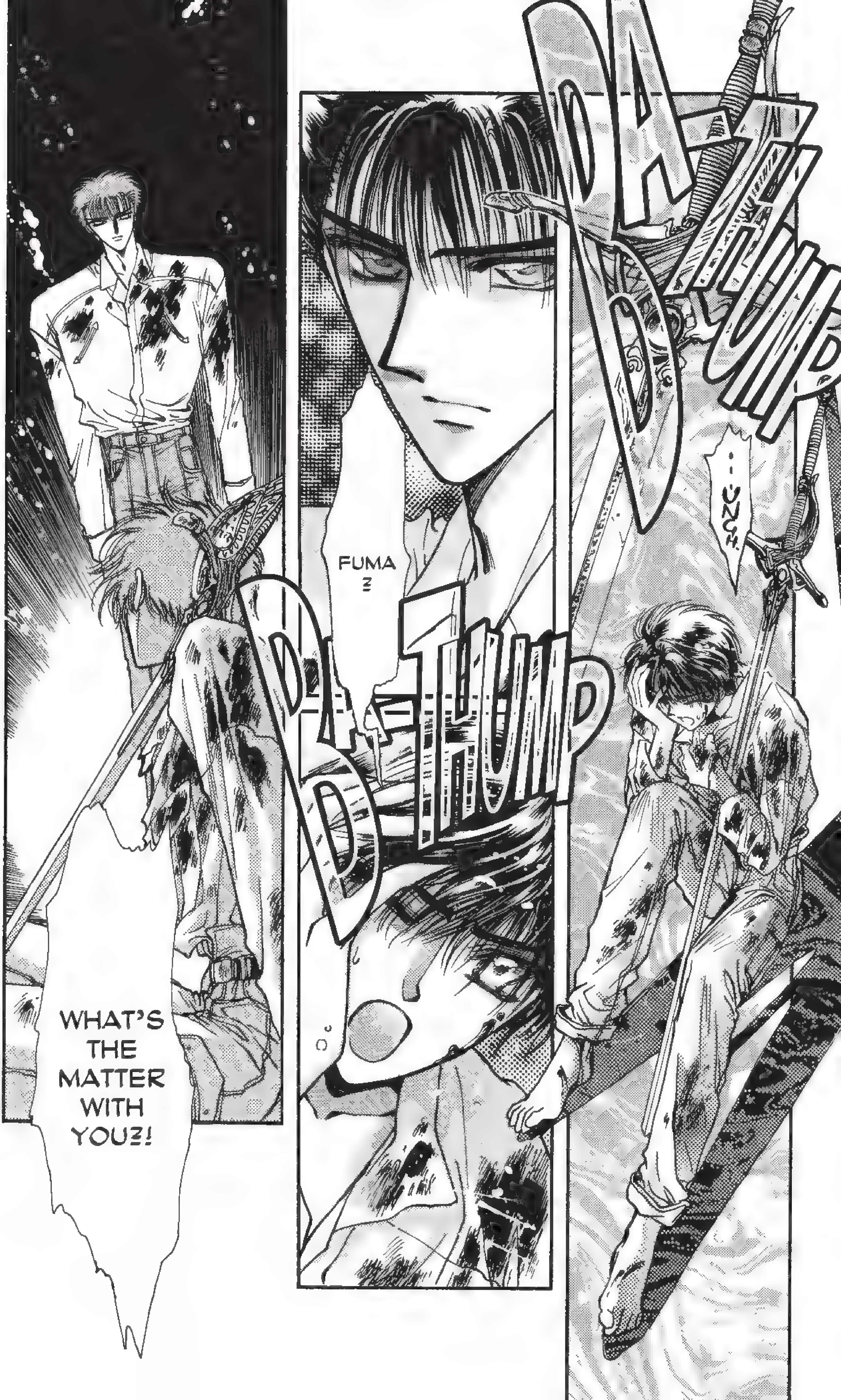

EVERY-THING WAS RED...

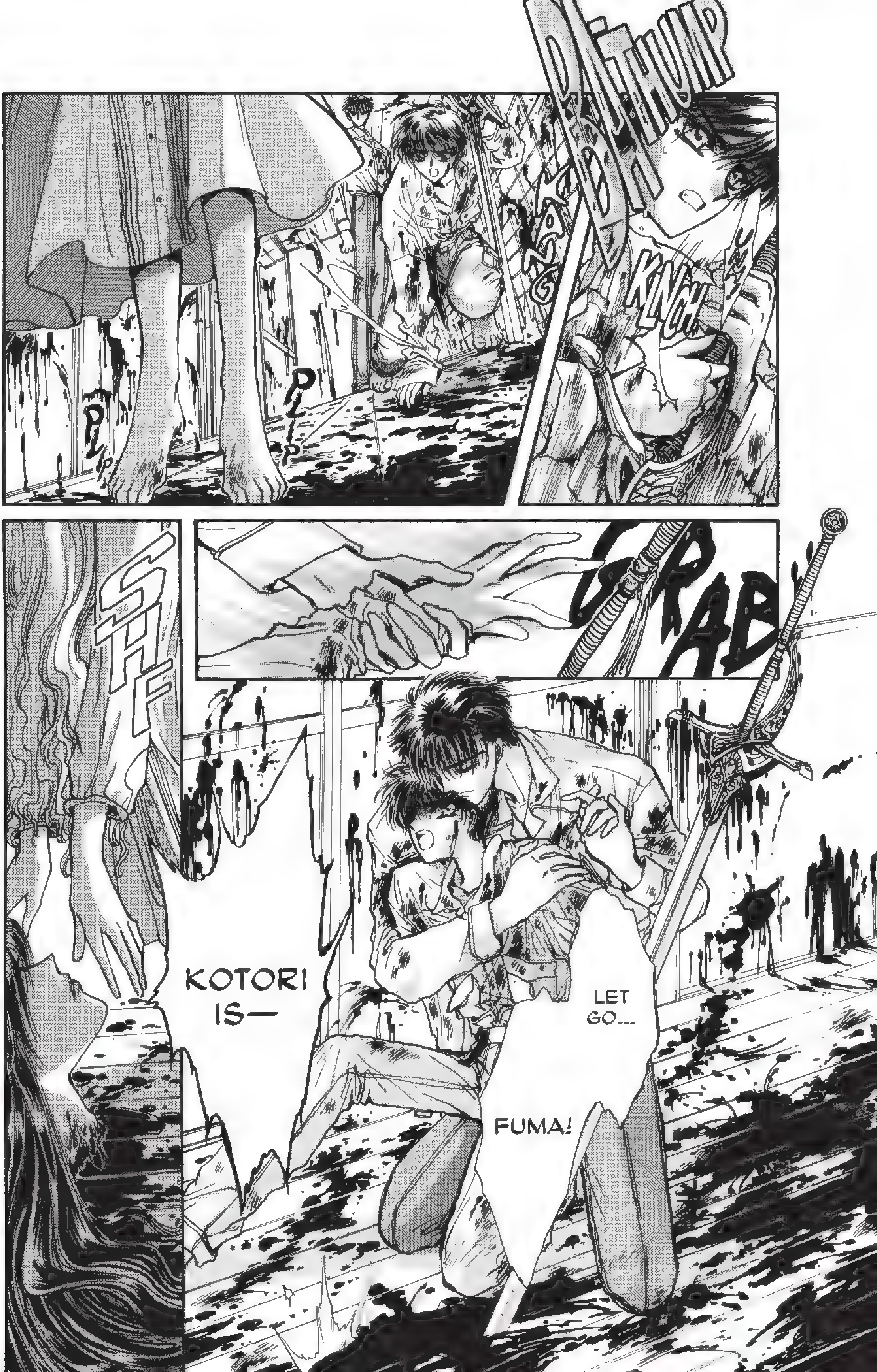

AND THERE WAS ...
A... A HEAD ON THE FLOOR...

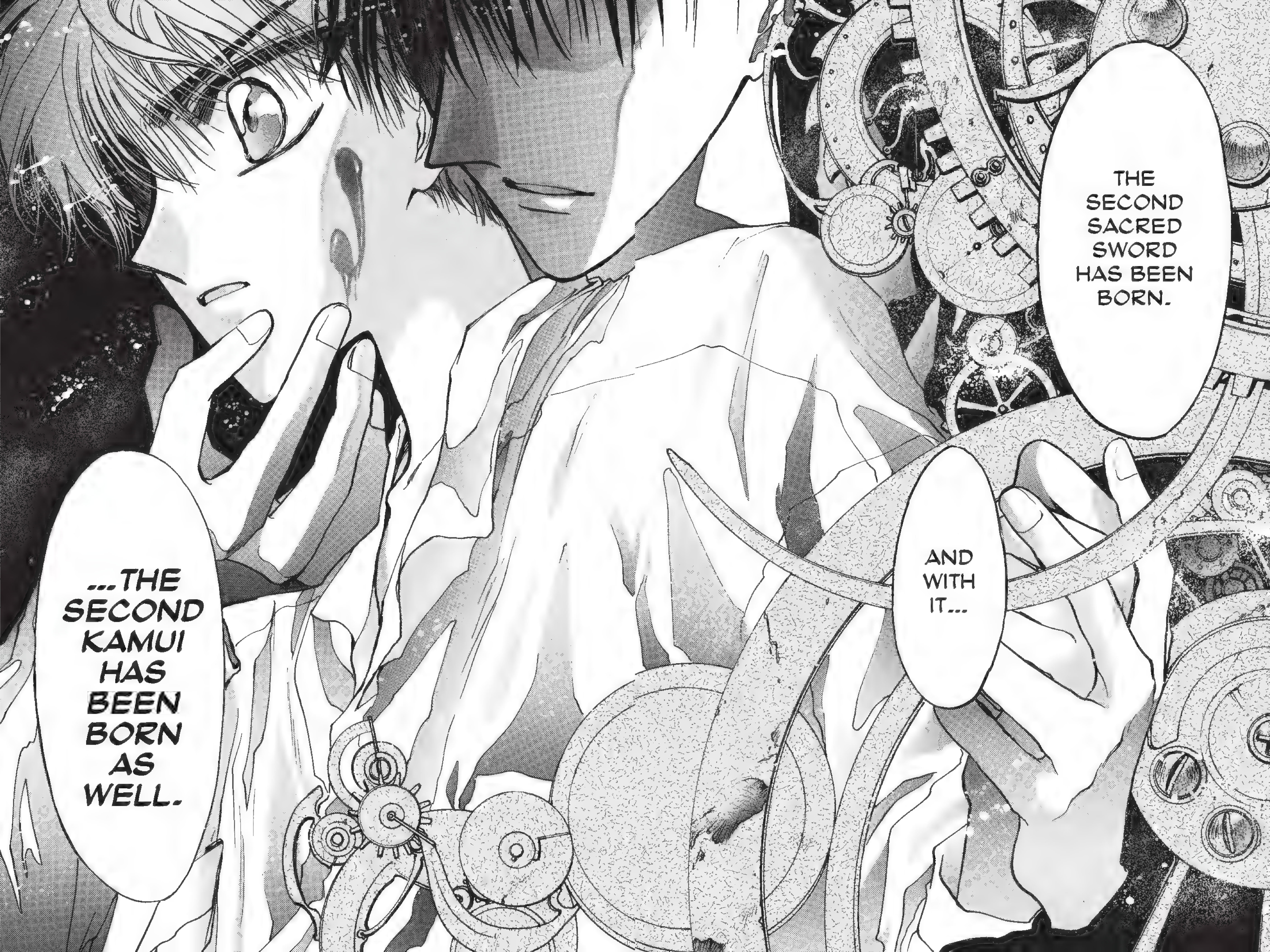

AH...AAAAAAA!
KOTORI!
LOOK AT ME, PLEASE!

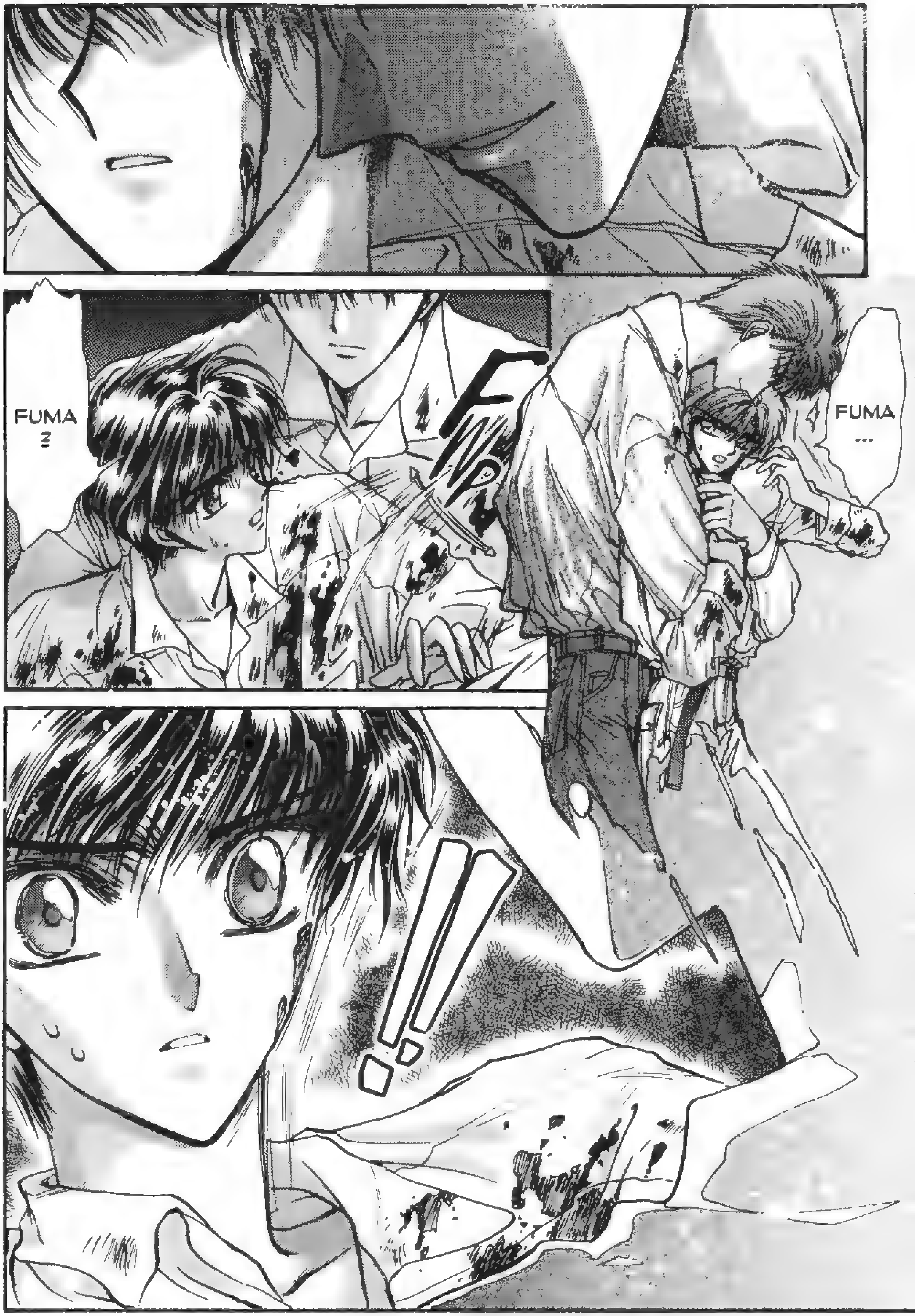

WOBL
THE HEAD ...
SW AP
KOTORI'S... HEAD...?
FUMA! STOP HER!

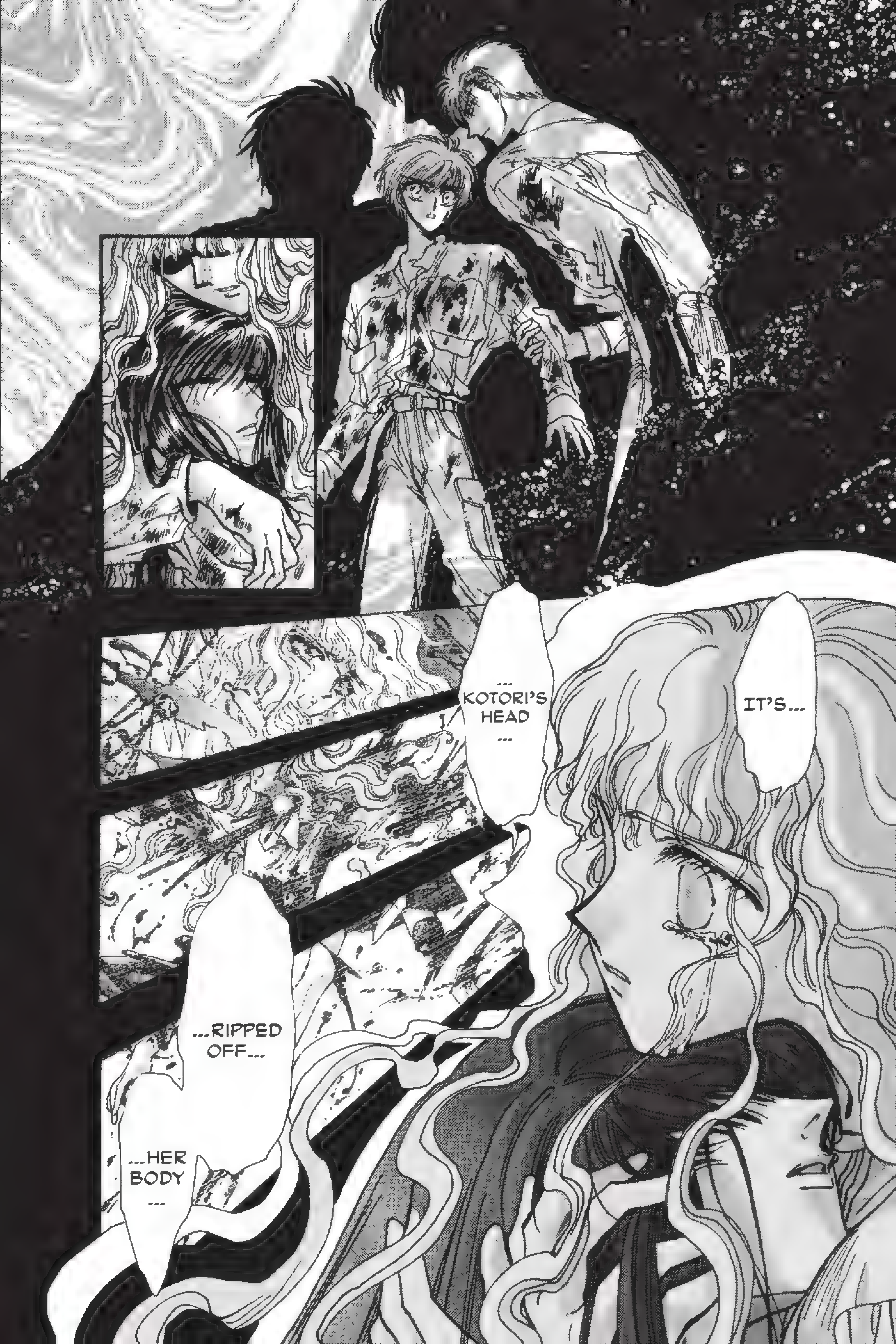

FUMA...!
F–
FUMA
...?

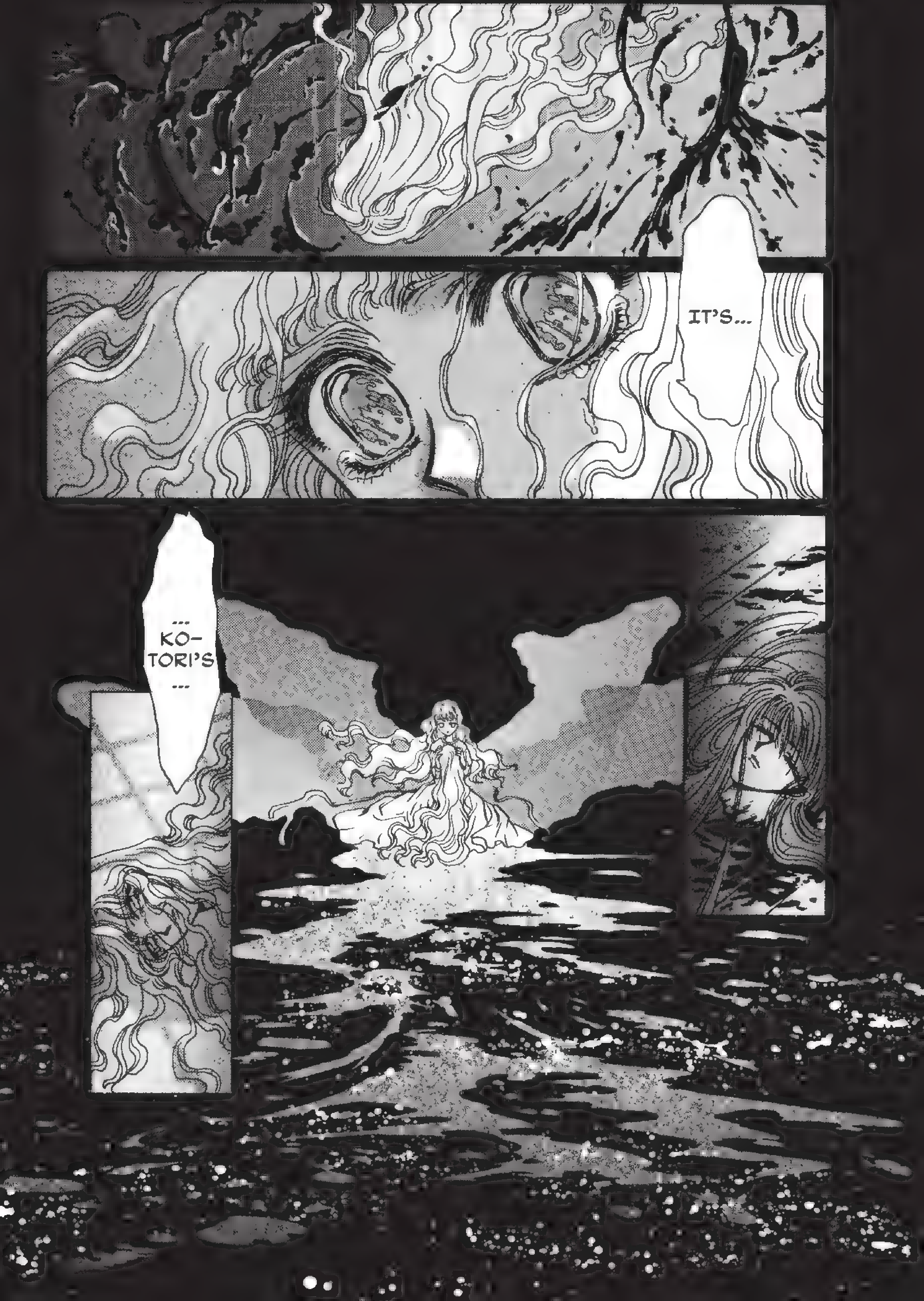

DA-THUMP
...UNGH.
FUMA?
DA-THUMP
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?!

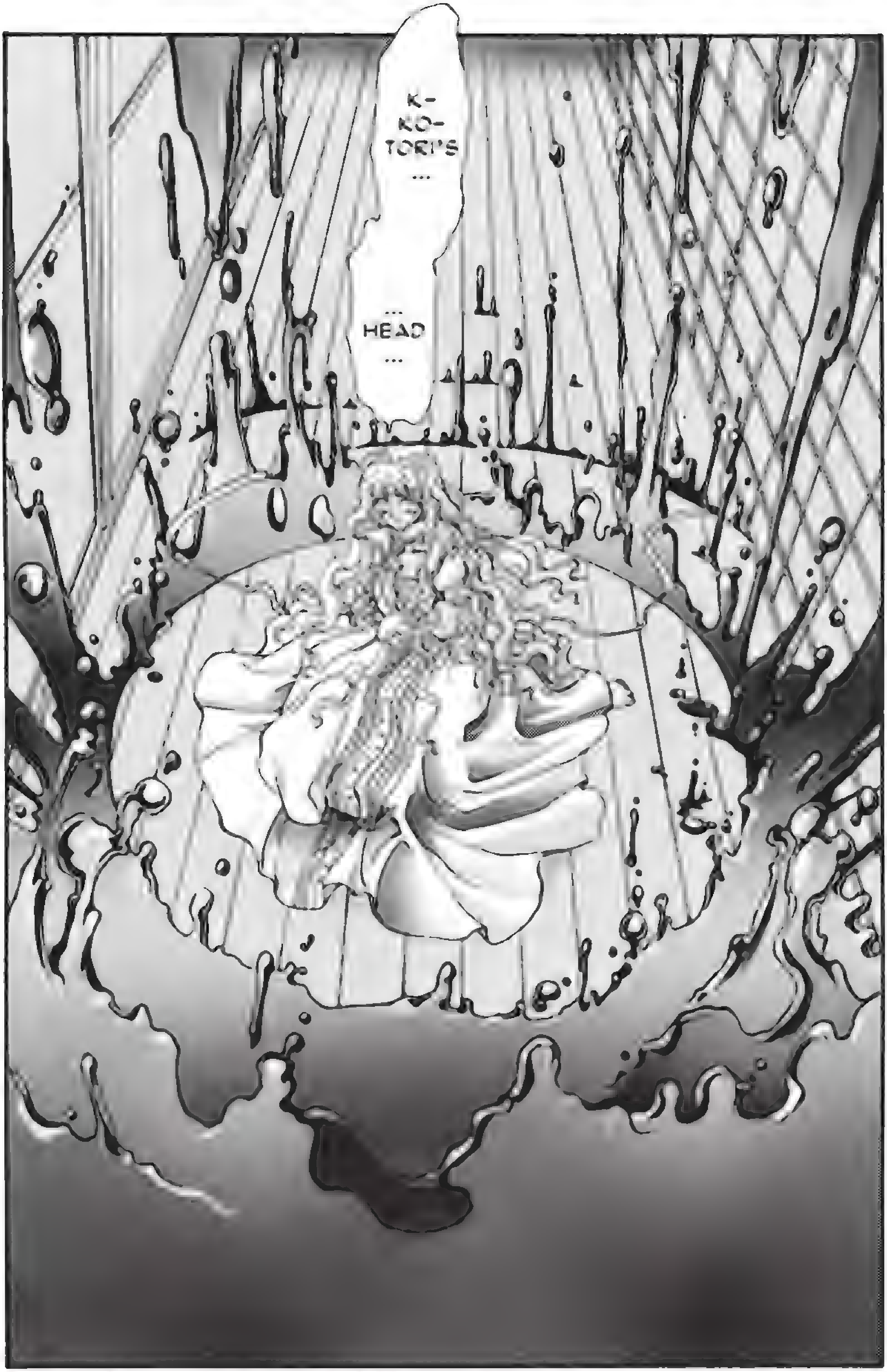

BATHUMP
WANG
KLINCH
PLIP
PLIP
GRAB
SHF
LET GO...
FUMA!
KOTORI IS—

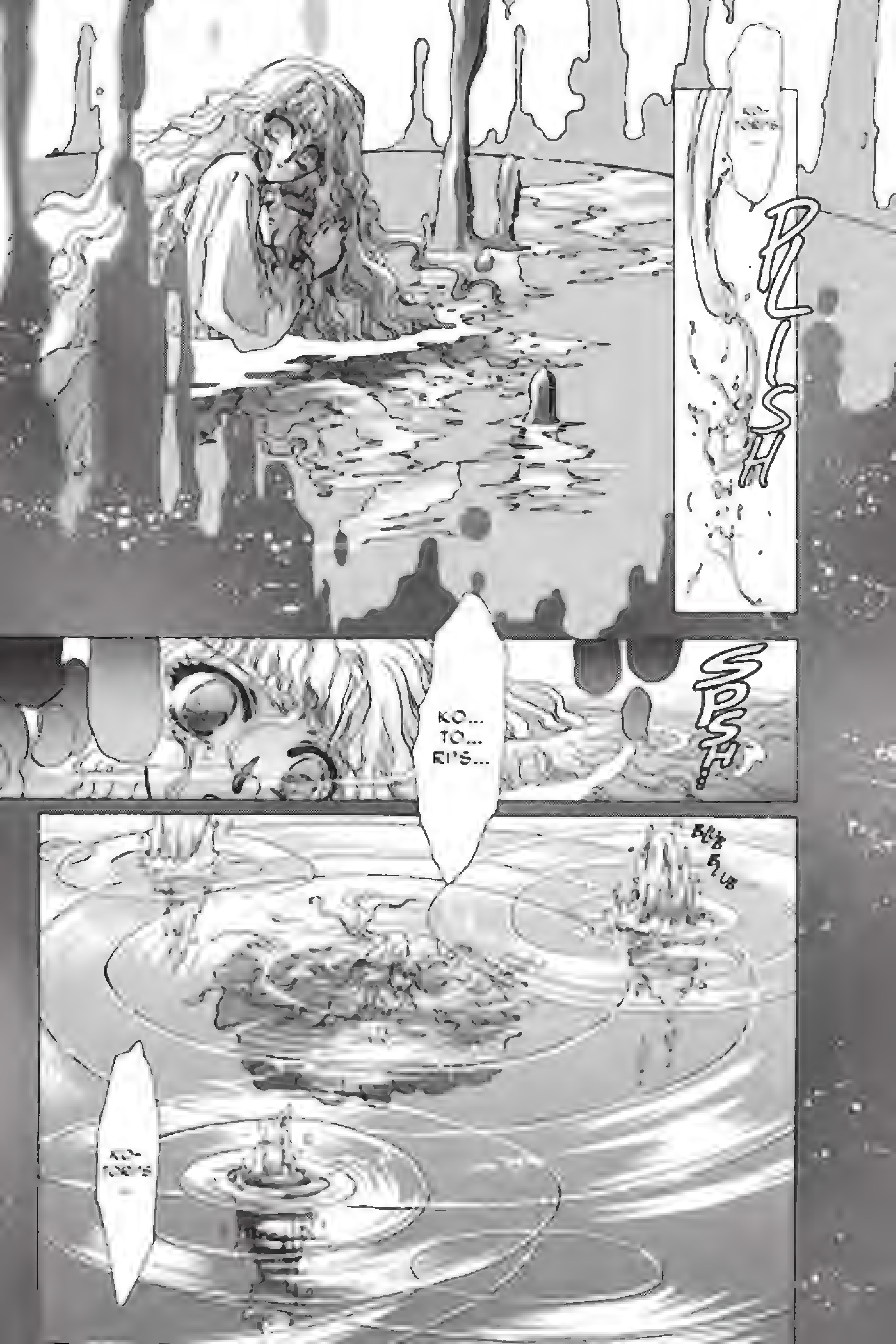

THE SECOND SACRED SWORD HAS BEEN BORN.
AND WITH IT...
...THE SECOND KAMUI HAS BEEN BORN AS WELL.

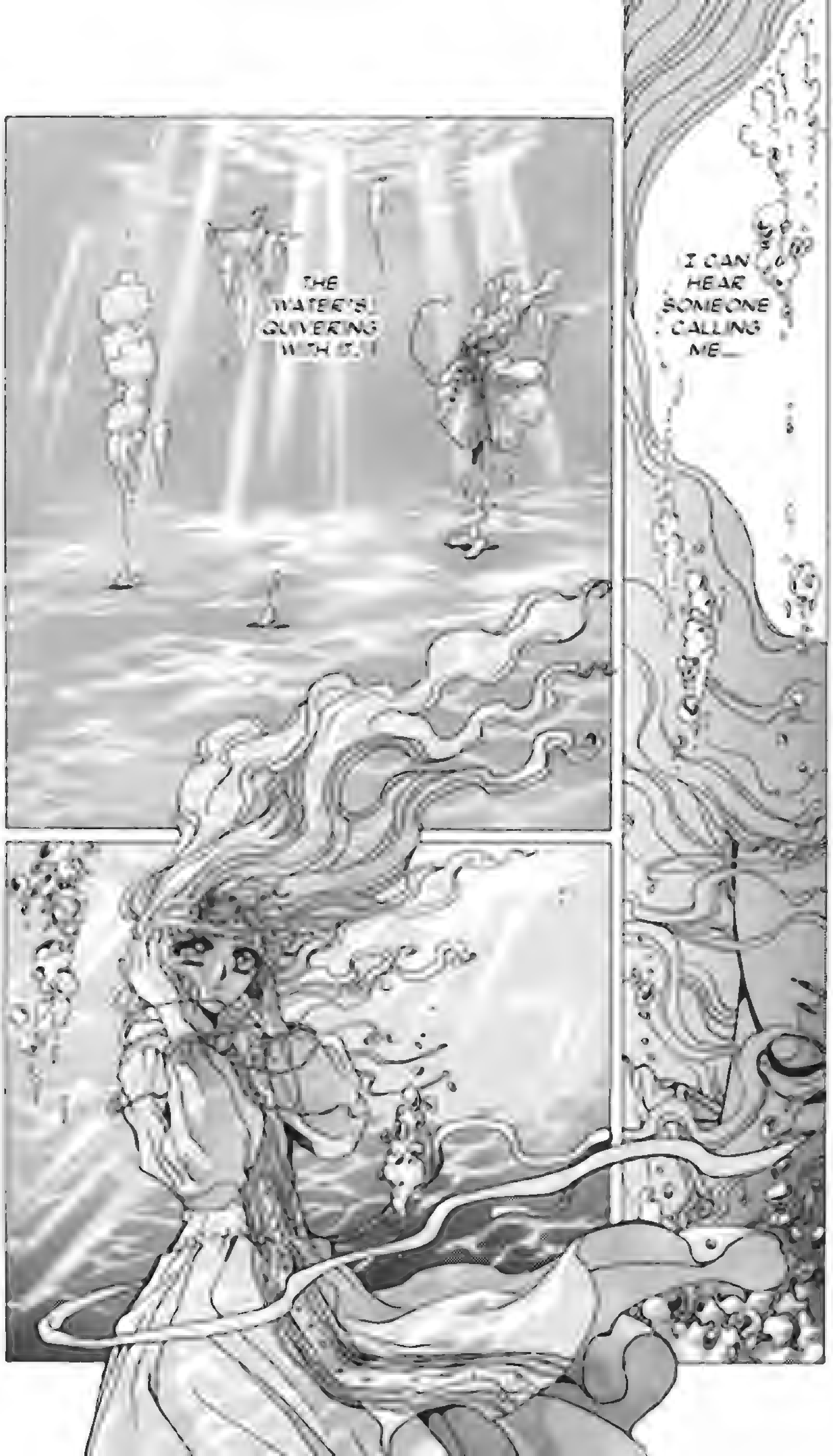

FUMA ...
FUMA !
!!

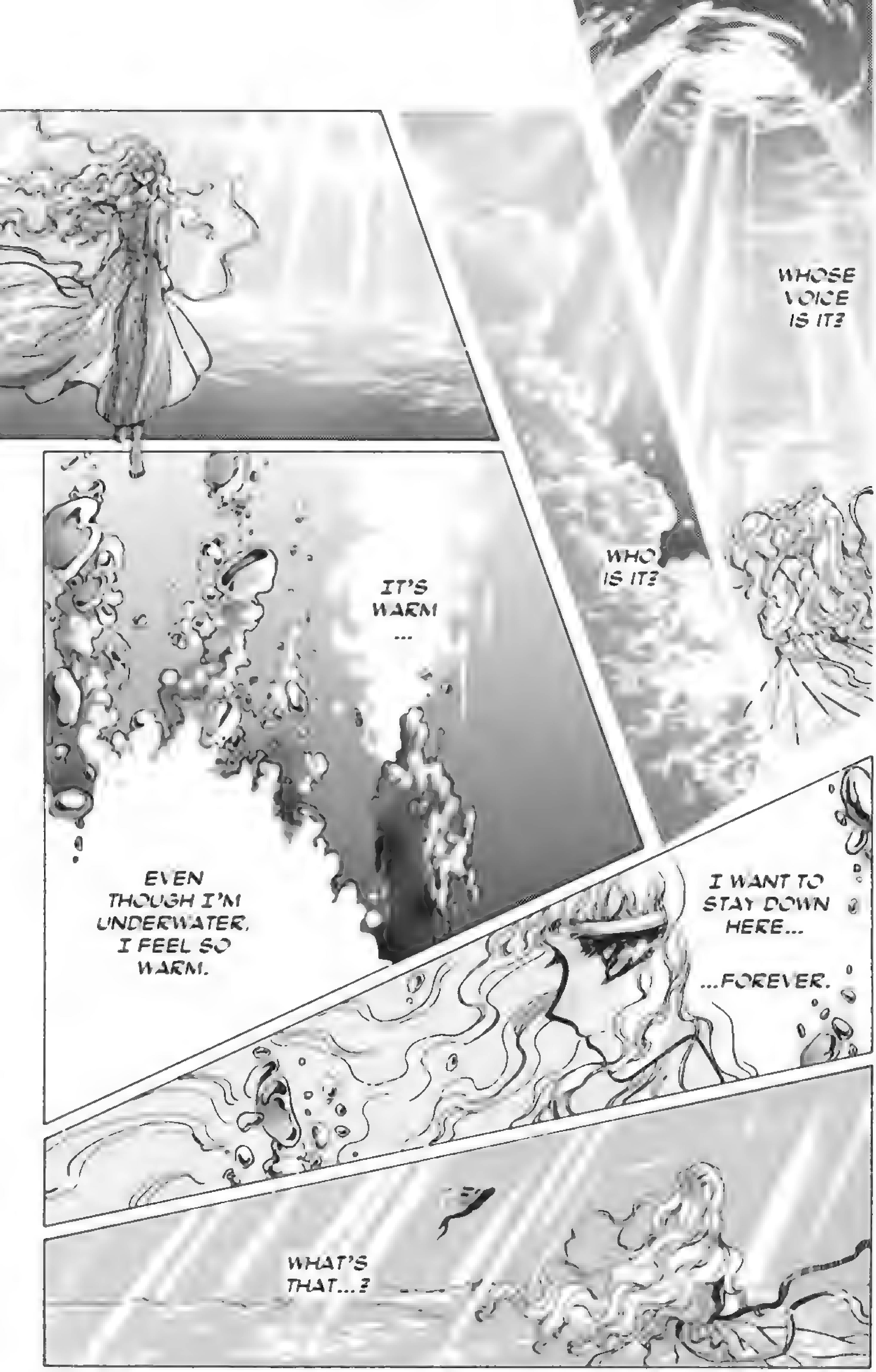

IT'S...
...KOTORI'S HEAD ...
...RIPPED OFF...
...HER BODY ...

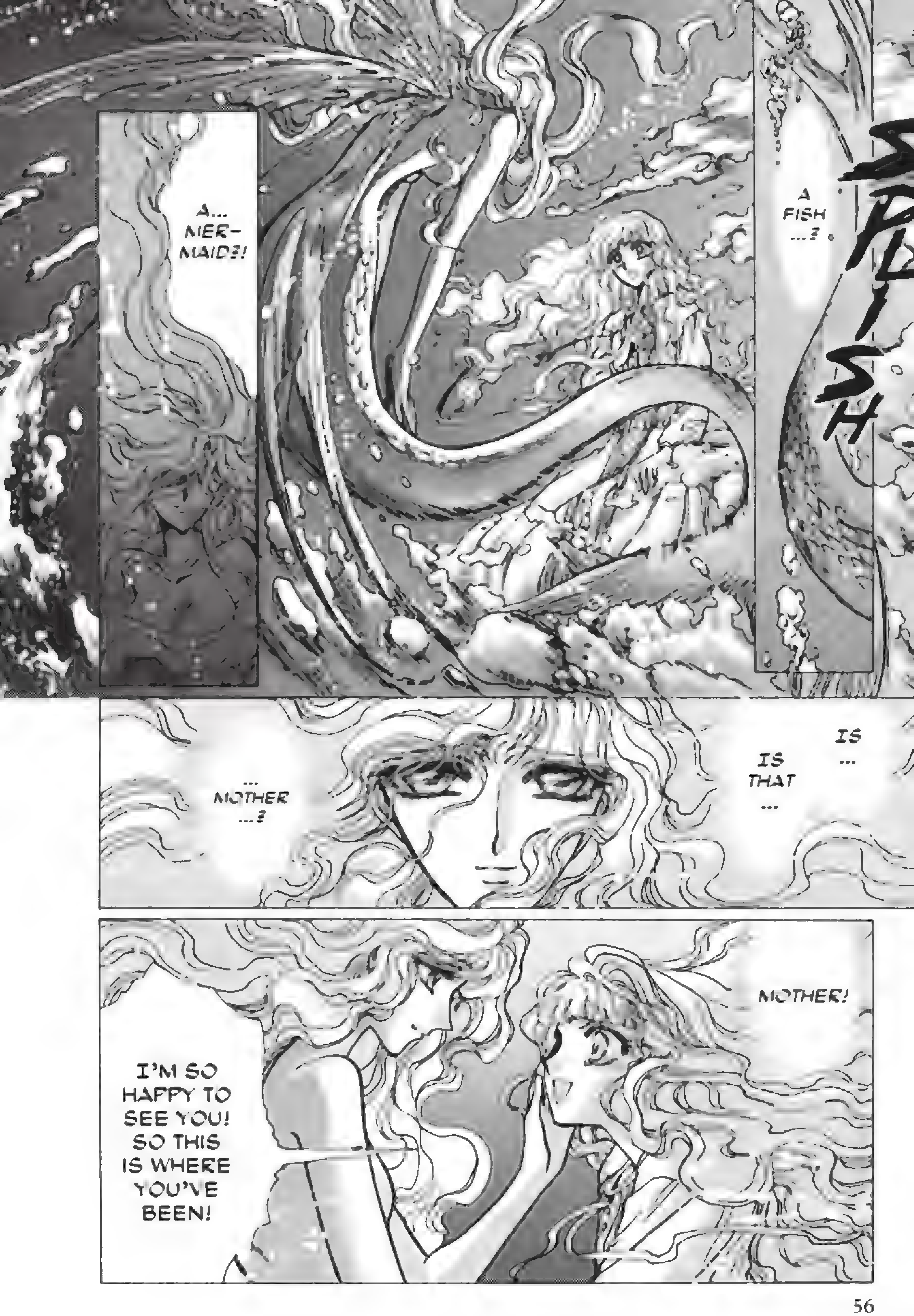

IT'S...
...KO-TORI'S...

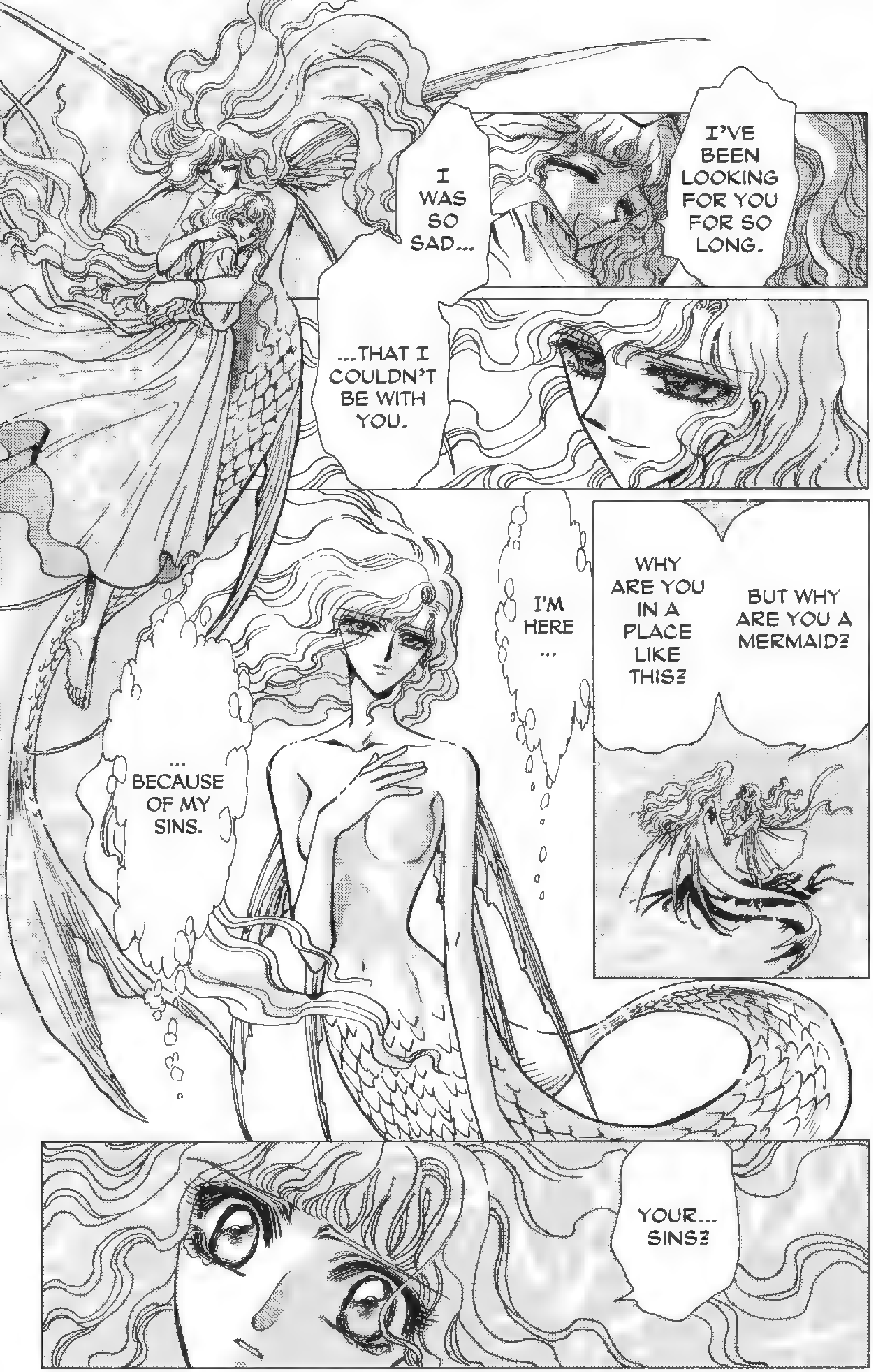

K-
KO-
TORI'S
...
... HEAD
...

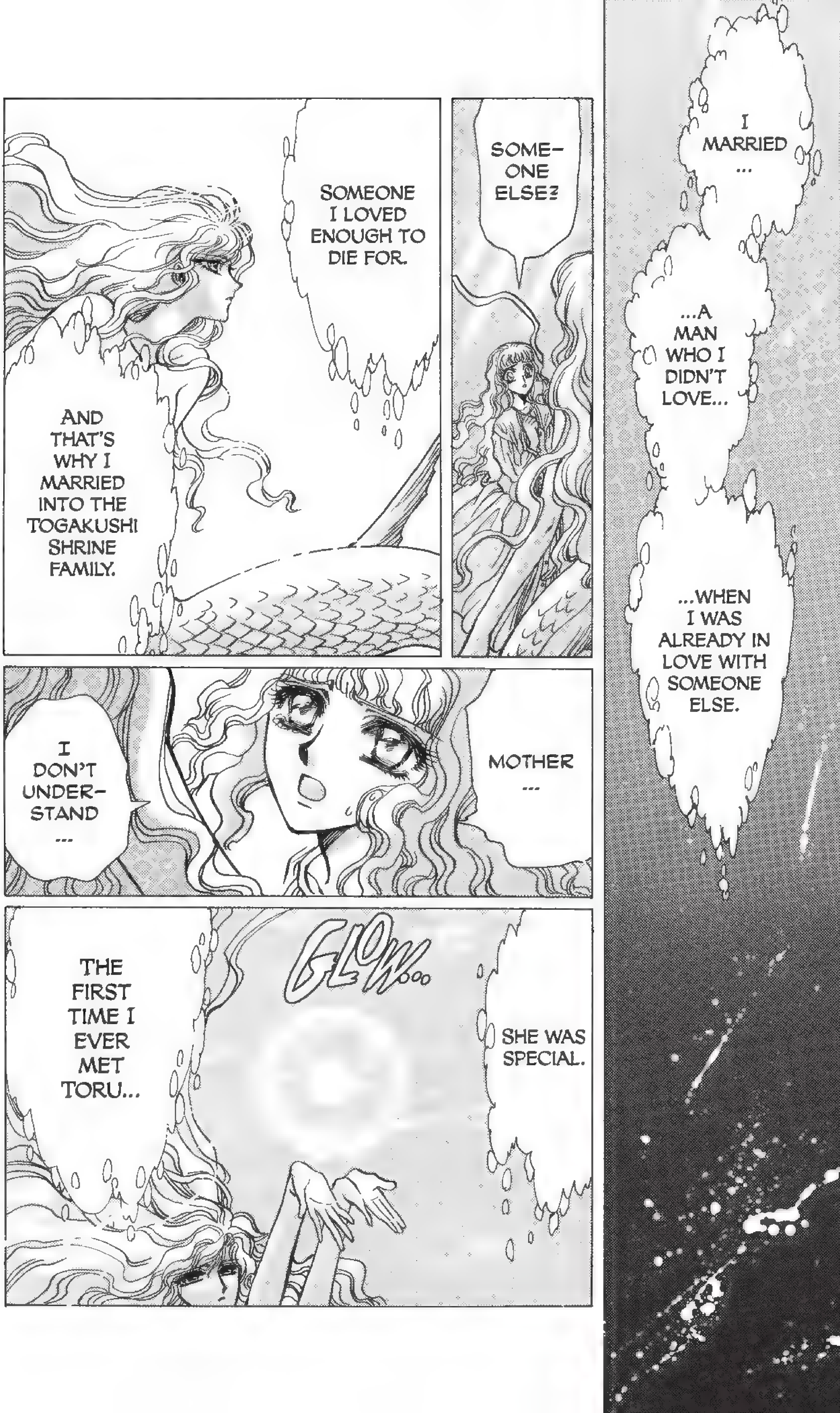

KO-TORI'S
PLISH
SPLSH!
KO... TO... RI'S...
BLUB BLUB
KO-TORI'S ...

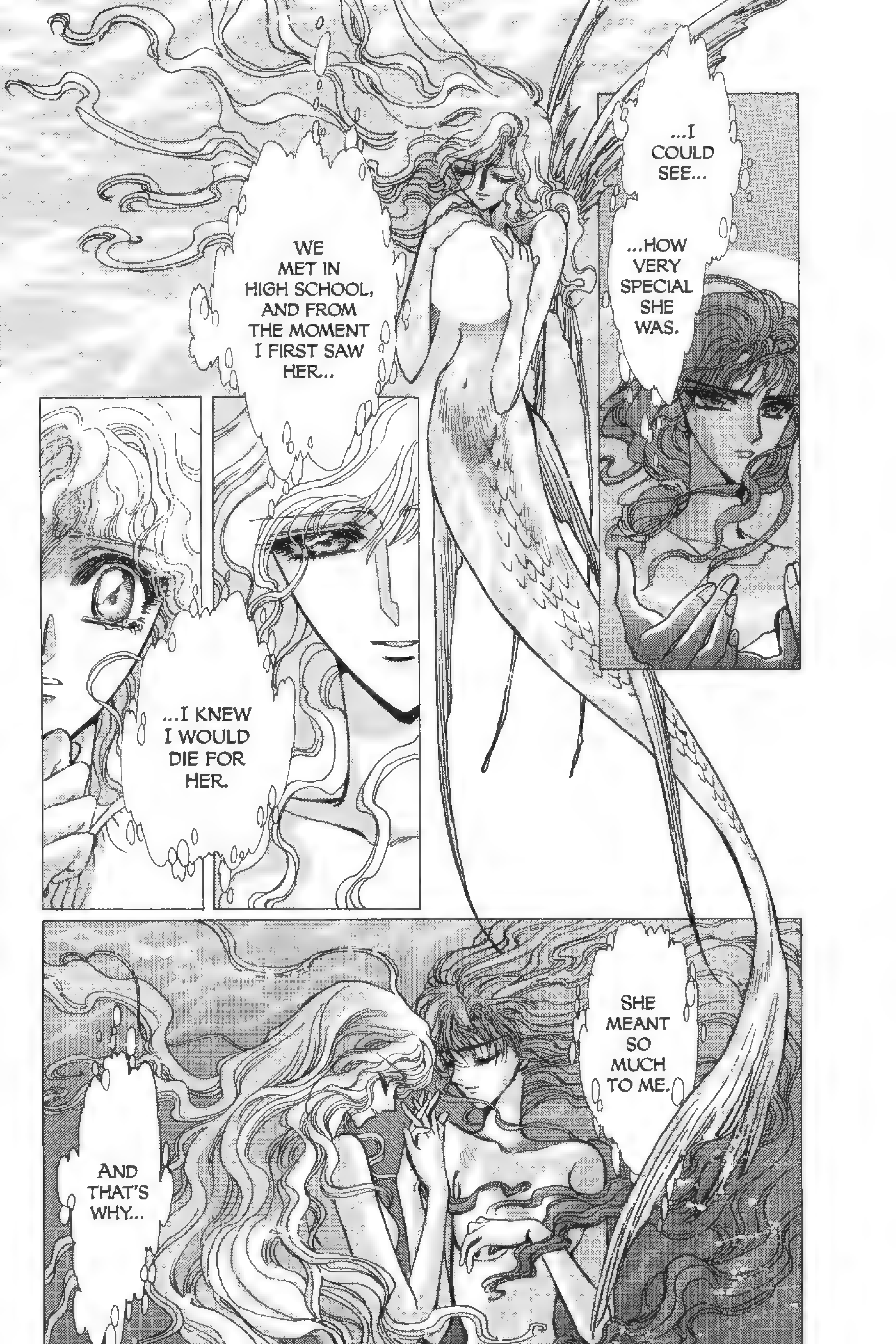

I CAN HEAR SOMEONE CALLING ME_
THE WATER'S QUIVERING WITH IT...

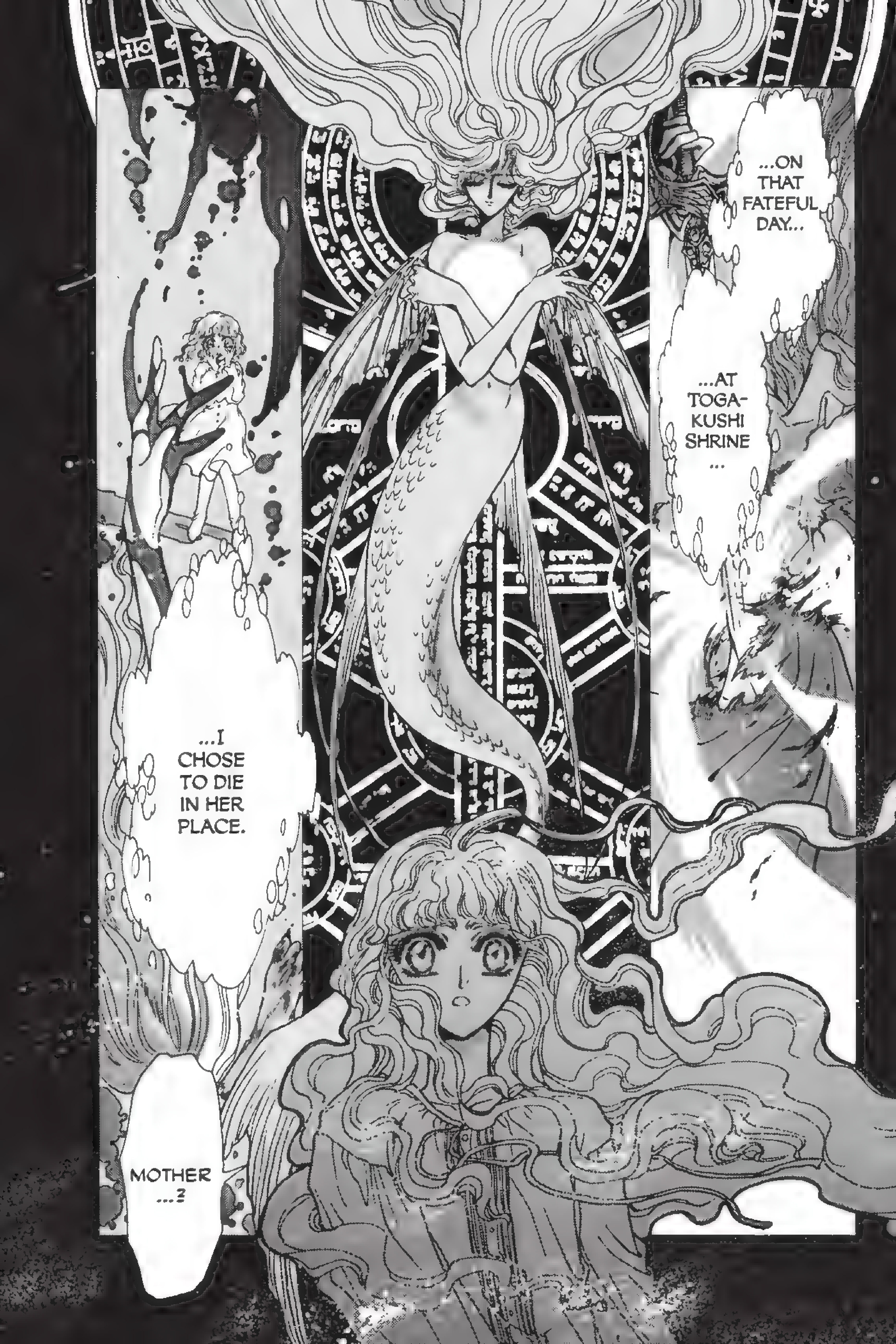

WHOSE VOICE IS IT?
WHO IS IT?
IT'S WARM ...
EVEN THOUGH I'M UNDERWATER, I FEEL SO WARM.
I WANT TO STAY DOWN HERE...
...FOREVER.
WHAT'S THAT...?

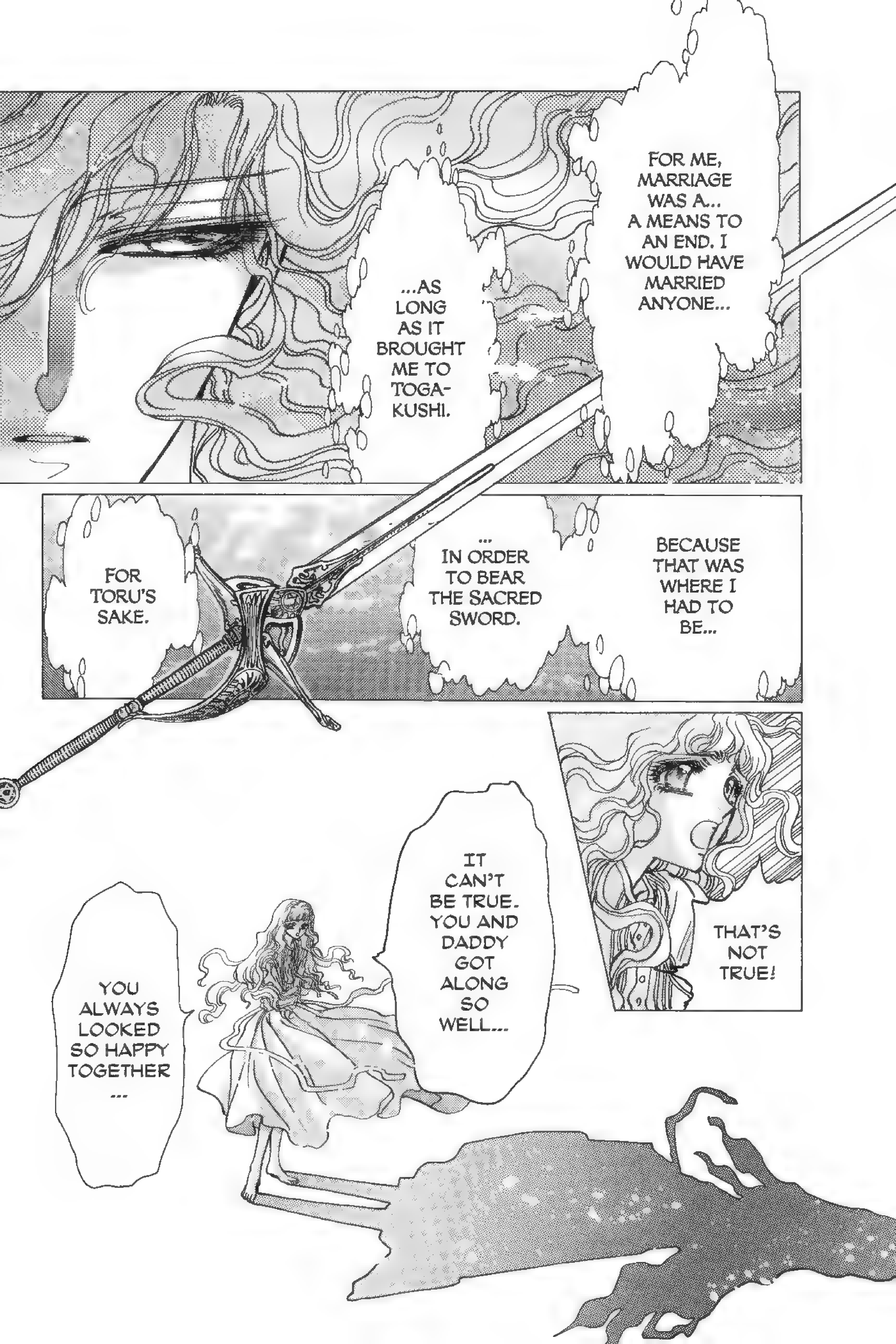

SPLISH
A FISH ...?
A... MER-MAID?!
IS ...
IS THAT ...
... MOTHER ...?
MOTHER!
I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU! SO THIS IS WHERE YOU'VE BEEN!

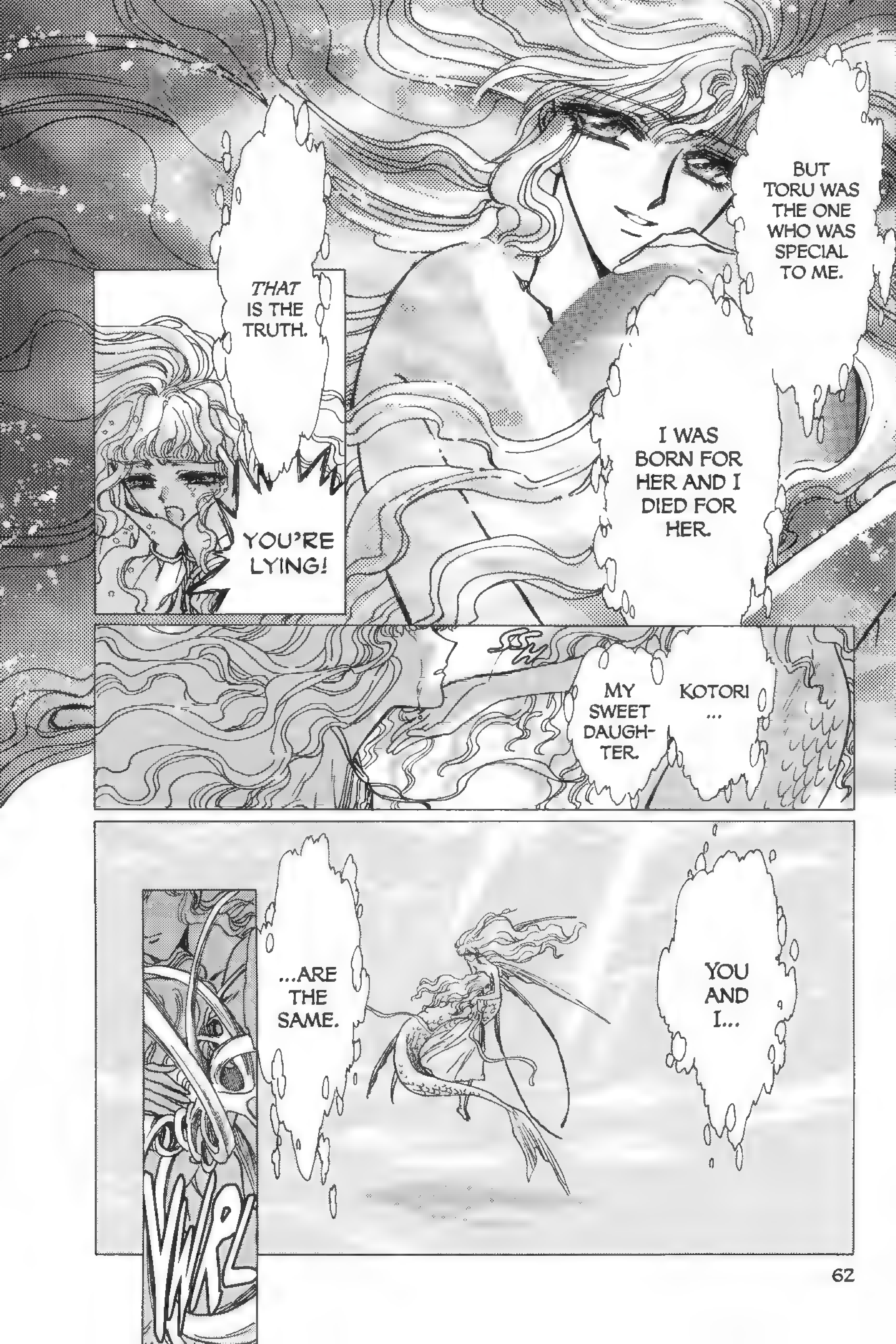

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU FOR SO LONG.
I WAS SO SAD...
...THAT I COULDN'T BE WITH YOU.
BUT WHY ARE YOU A MERMAID?
WHY ARE YOU IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
I'M HERE ...
... BECAUSE OF MY SINS.
YOUR... SINS?

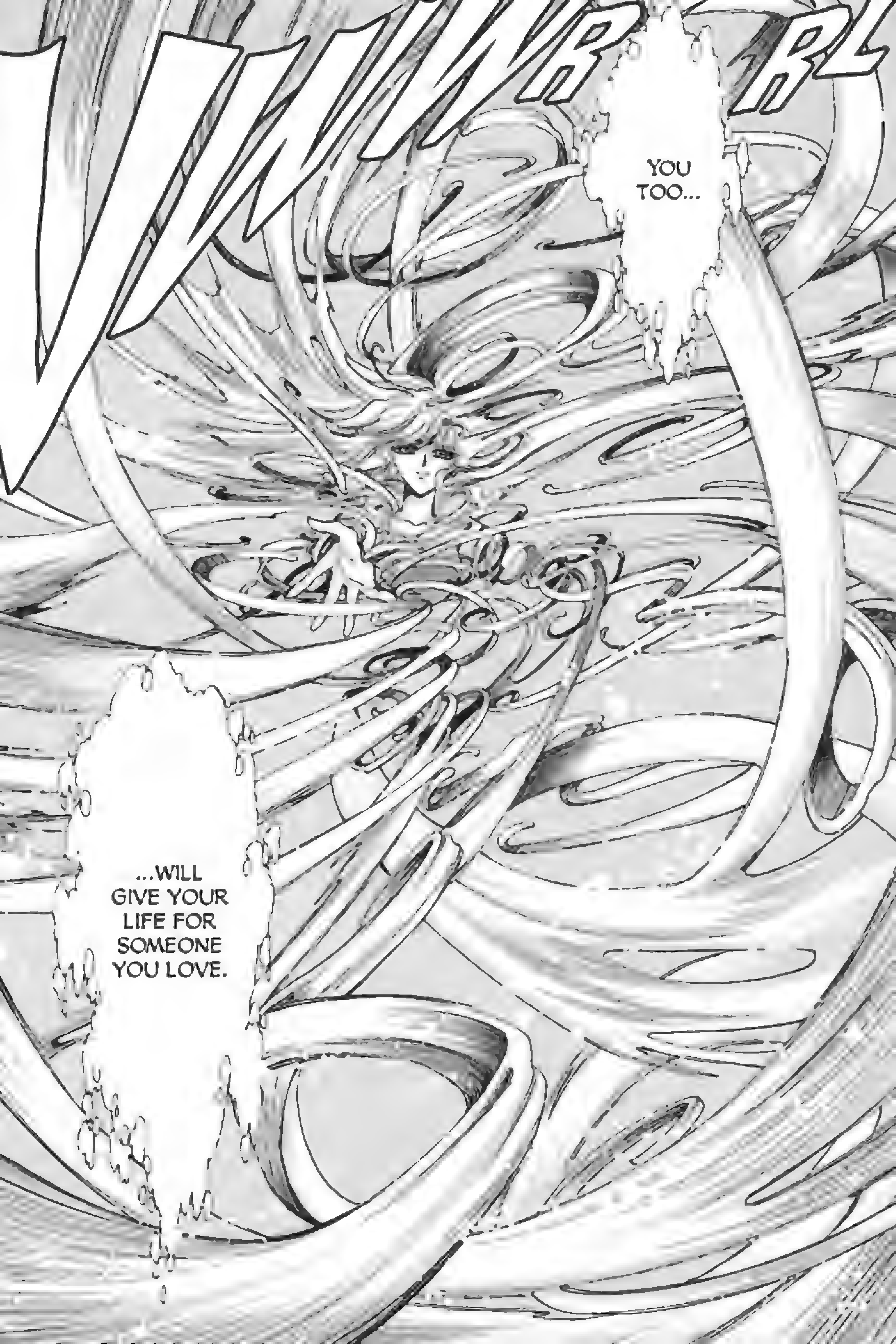

I MARRIED ...
...A MAN WHO I DIDN'T LOVE...
...WHEN I WAS ALREADY IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE.
SOMEONE ELSE?
SOMEONE I LOVED ENOUGH TO DIE FOR.
AND THAT'S WHY I MARRIED INTO THE TOGAKUSHI SHRINE FAMILY.
MOTHER ...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND ...
SHE WAS SPECIAL.
GLOW...
THE FIRST TIME I EVER MET TORU...

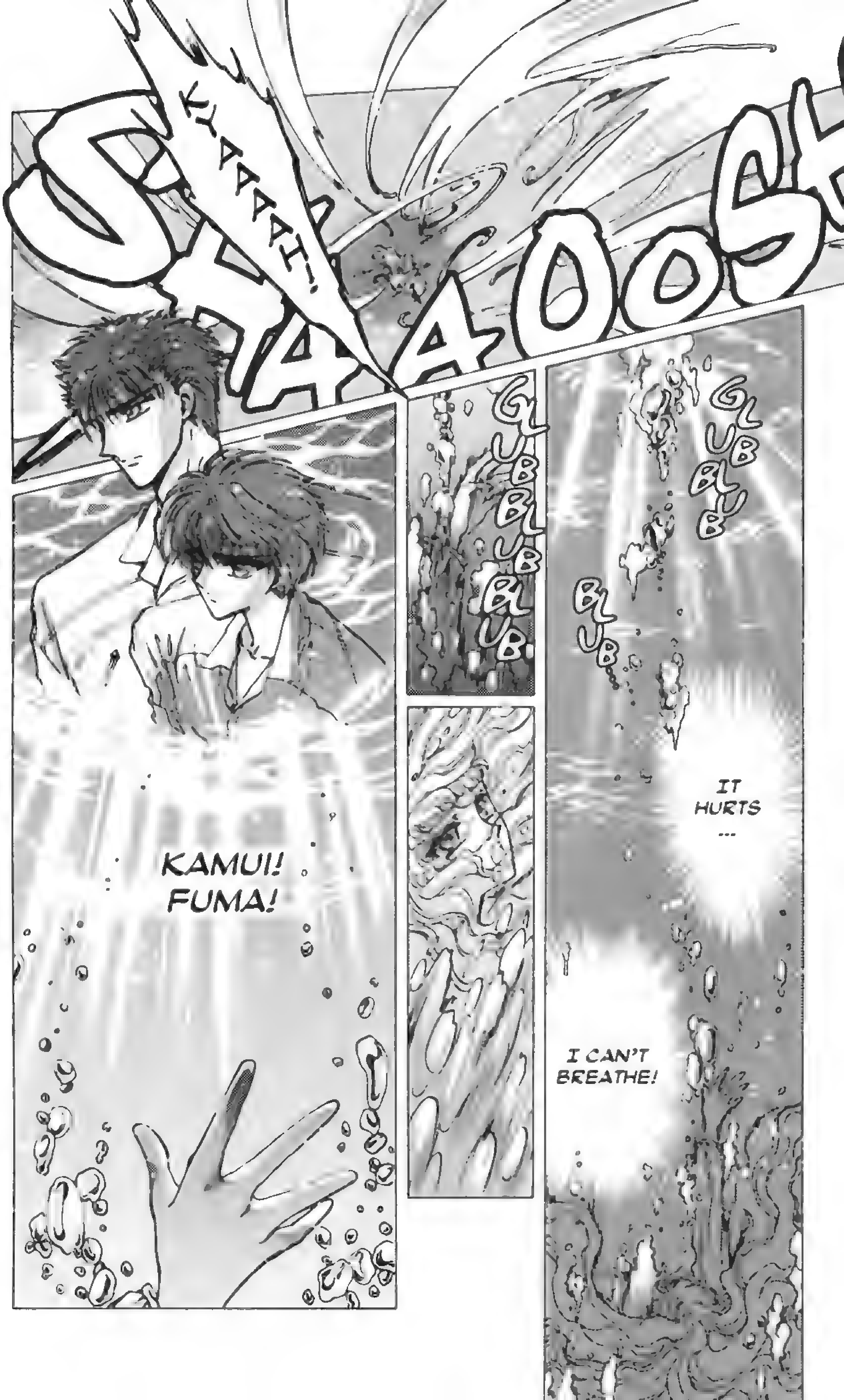

...I COULD SEE...
...HOW VERY SPECIAL SHE WAS.
WE MET IN HIGH SCHOOL, AND FROM THE MOMENT I FIRST SAW HER...
...I KNEW I WOULD DIE FOR HER.
SHE MEANT SO MUCH TO ME.
AND THAT'S WHY...

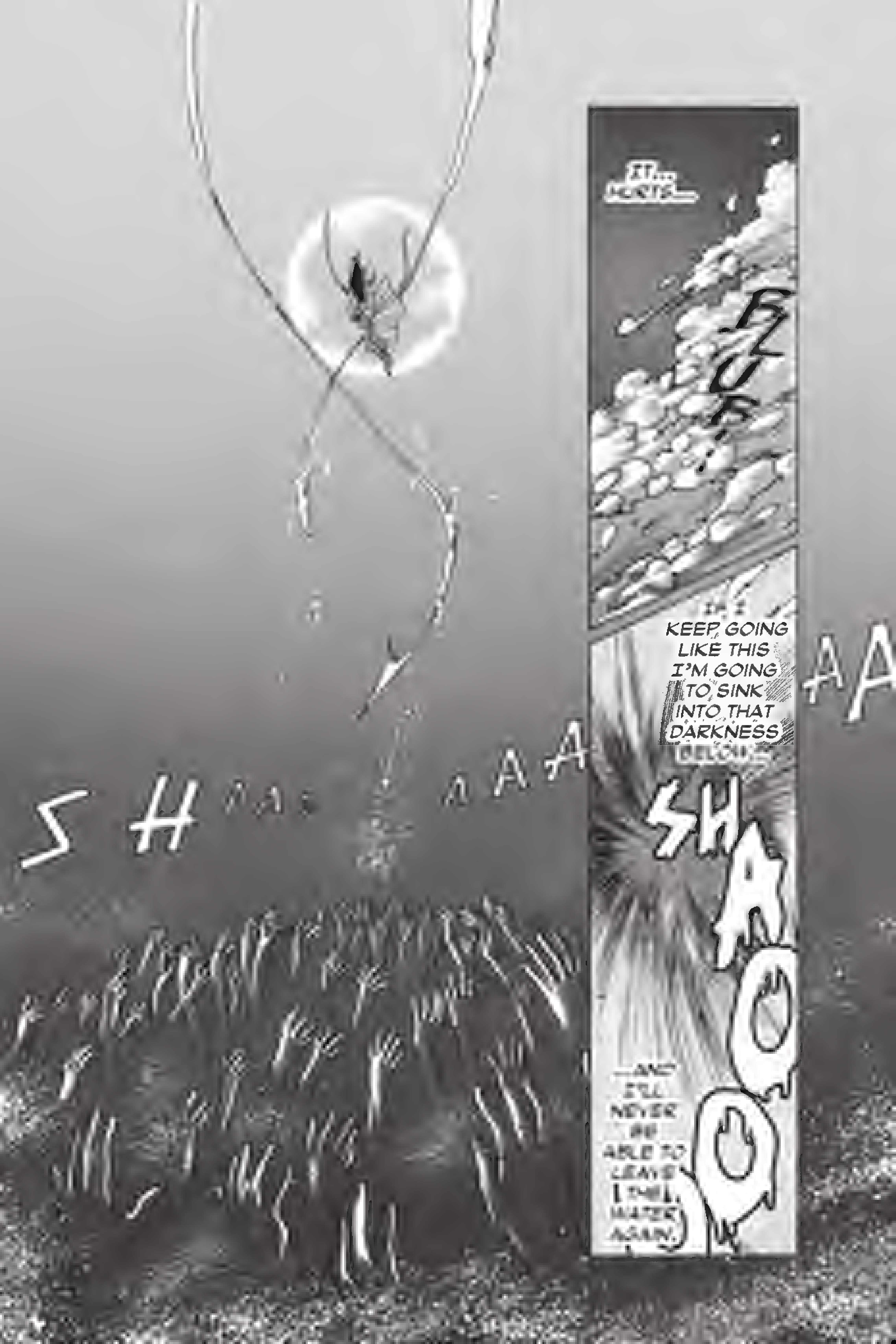

...ON THAT FATEFUL DAY...
...AT TOGA-KUSHI SHRINE...
...I CHOSE TO DIE IN HER PLACE.
MOTHER ...?

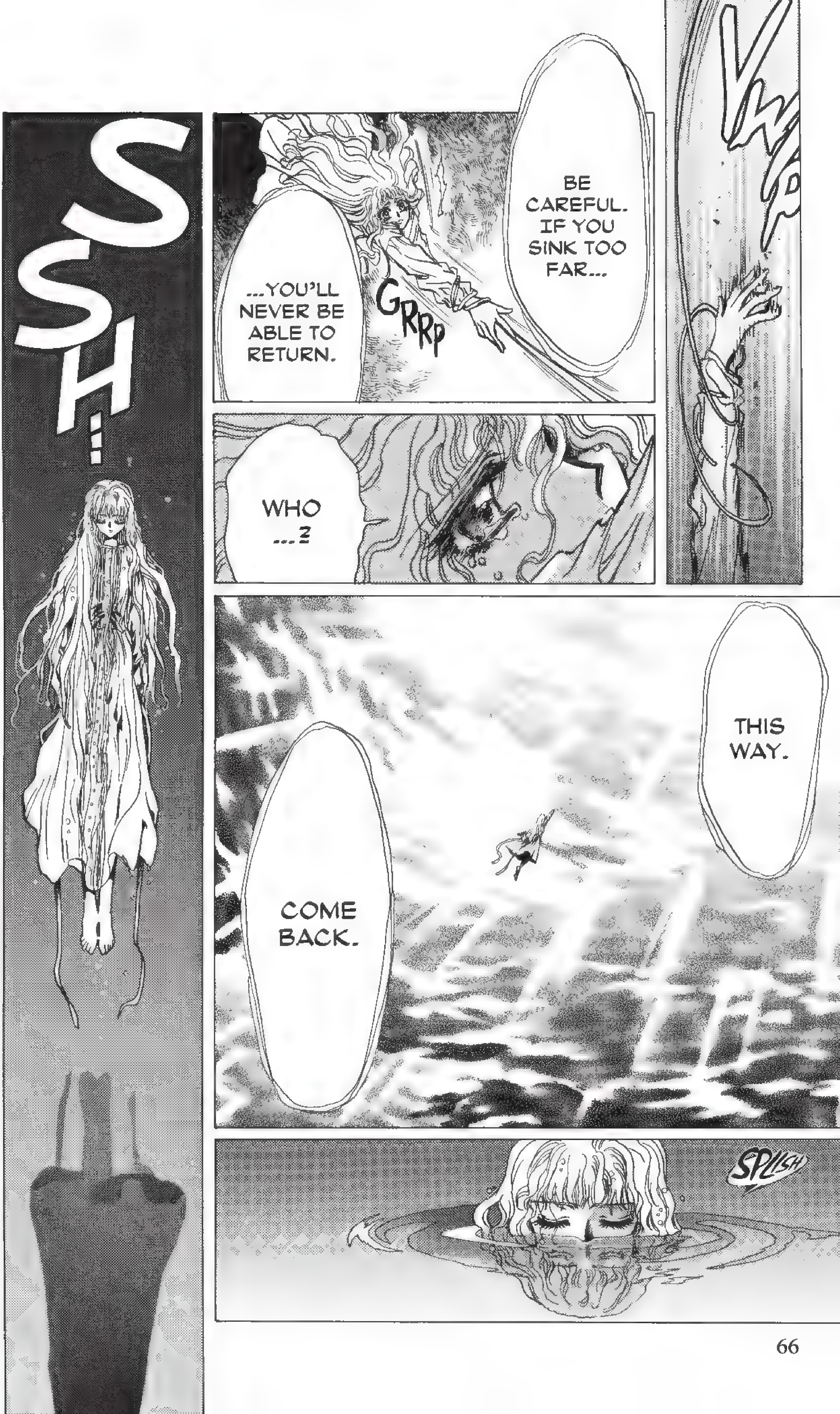

FOR ME, MARRIAGE WAS A... A MEANS TO AN END. I WOULD HAVE MARRIED ANYONE...
...AS LONG AS IT BROUGHT ME TO TOGAKUSHI.
BECAUSE THAT WAS WHERE I HAD TO BE...
... IN ORDER TO BEAR THE SACRED SWORD.
FOR TORU'S SAKE.
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
IT CAN'T BE TRUE. YOU AND DADDY GOT ALONG SO WELL...
YOU ALWAYS LOOKED SO HAPPY TOGETHER ...

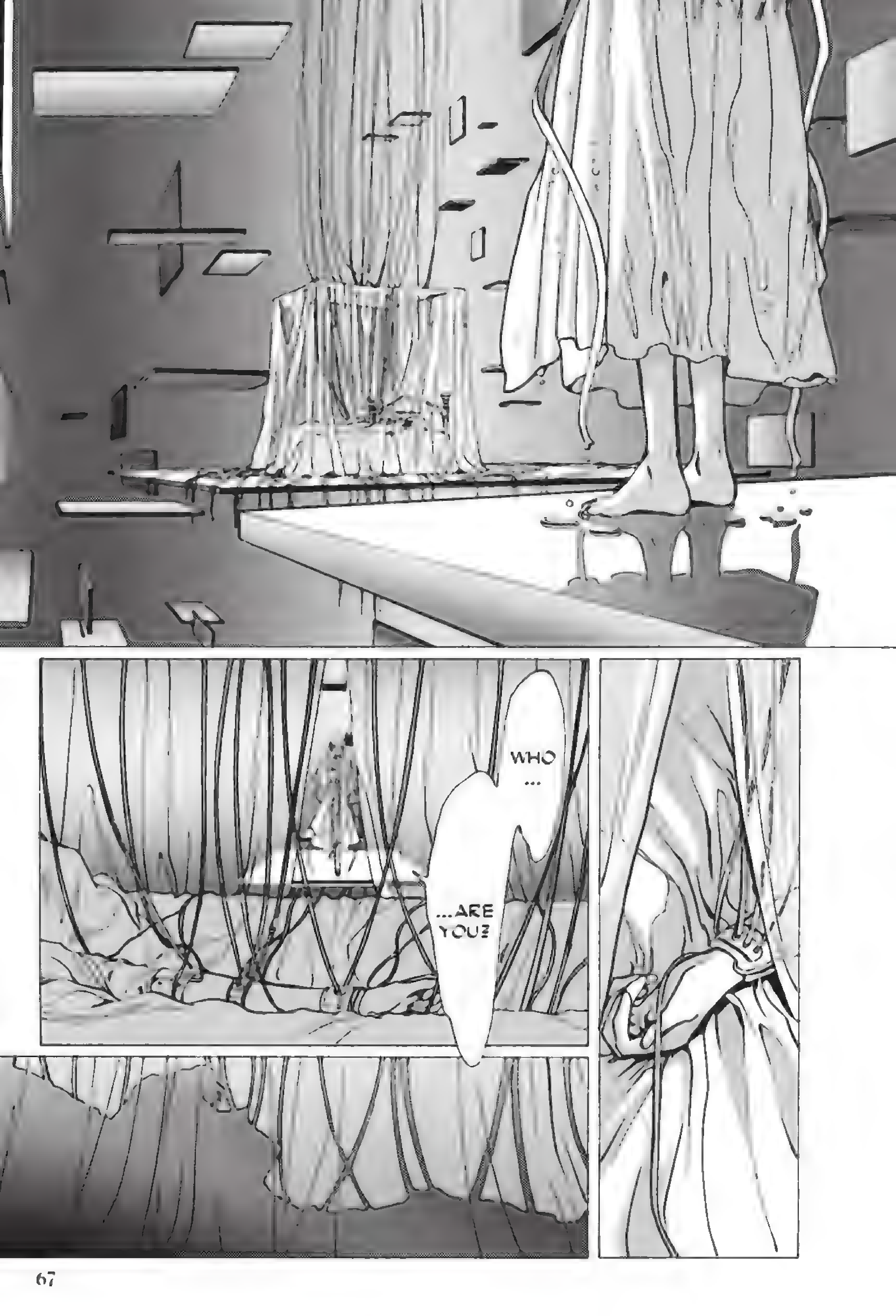

BUT TORU WAS THE ONE WHO WAS SPECIAL TO ME.
I WAS BORN FOR HER AND I DIED FOR HER.
THAT IS THE TRUTH.
YOU'RE LYING!
KOTORI ...
MY SWEET DAUGHTER.
YOU AND I...
...ARE THE SAME.

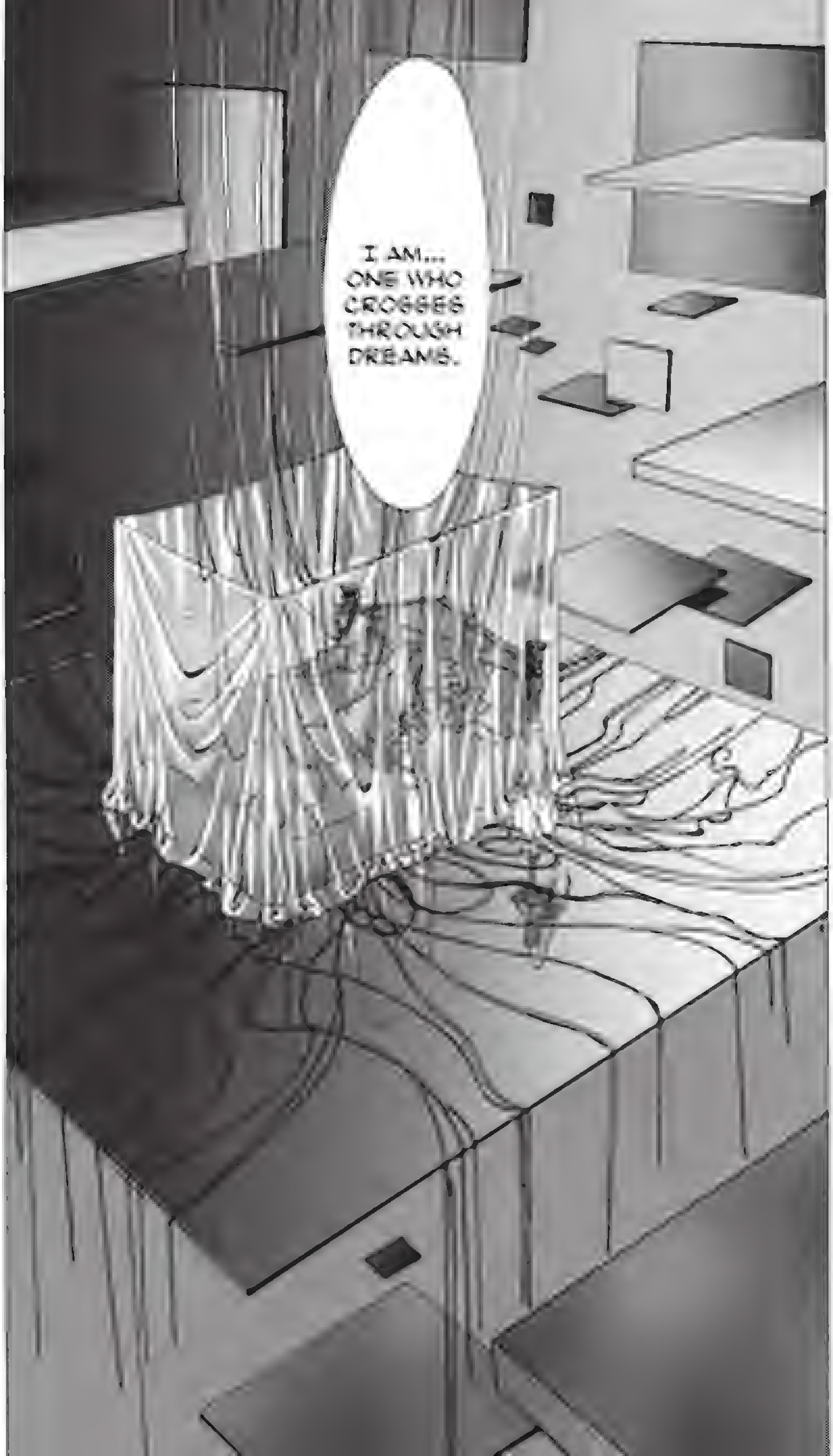

WHIRL
YOU TOO...
...WILL GIVE YOUR LIFE FOR SOMEONE YOU LOVE.

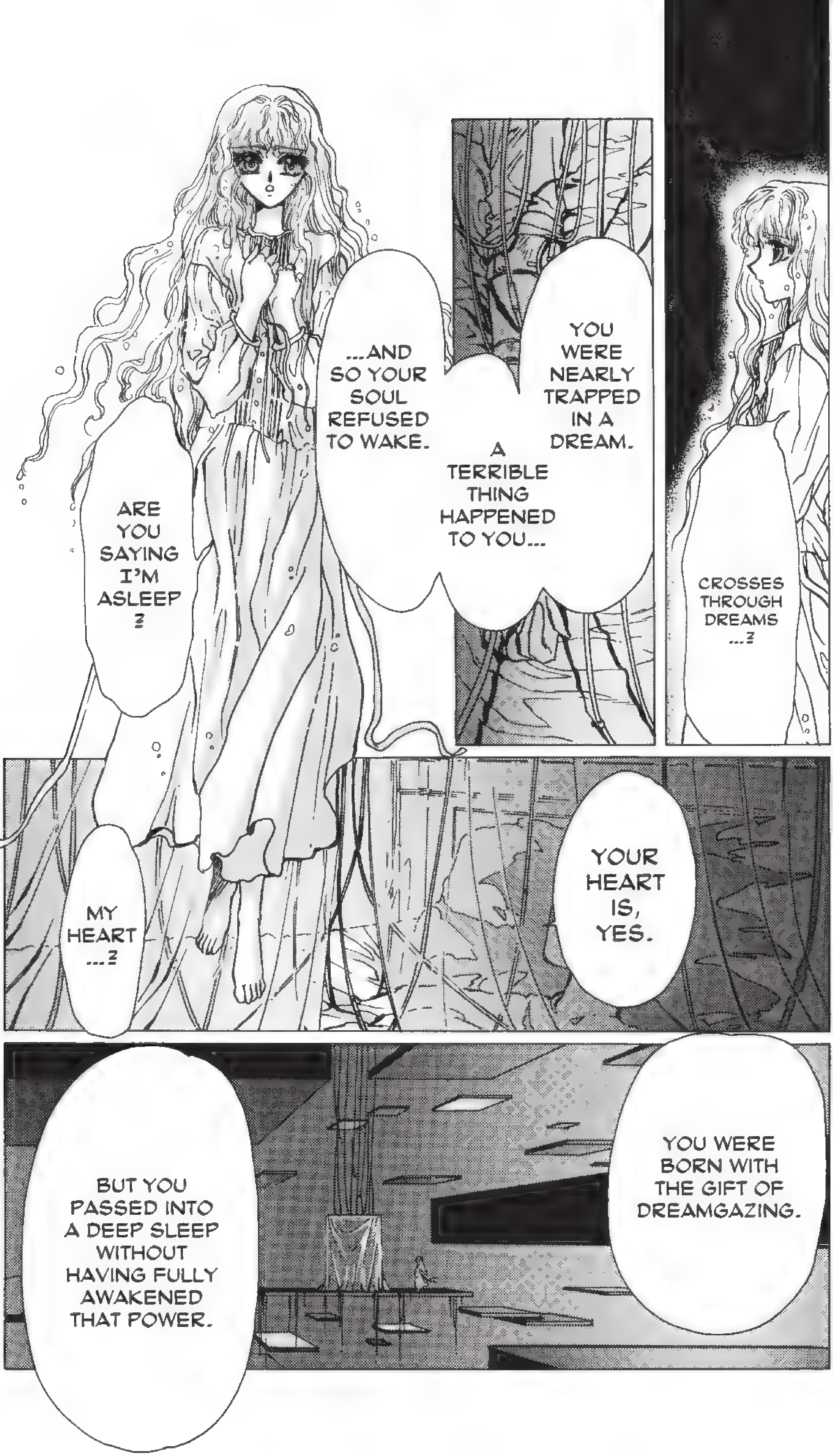

SPLAOOSH
KYAAAAAH!
GLUBBLUBUBBLUB
GLUBBLUB
BLUB
IT HURTS ...
I CAN'T BREATHE!
KAMUI! FUMA!

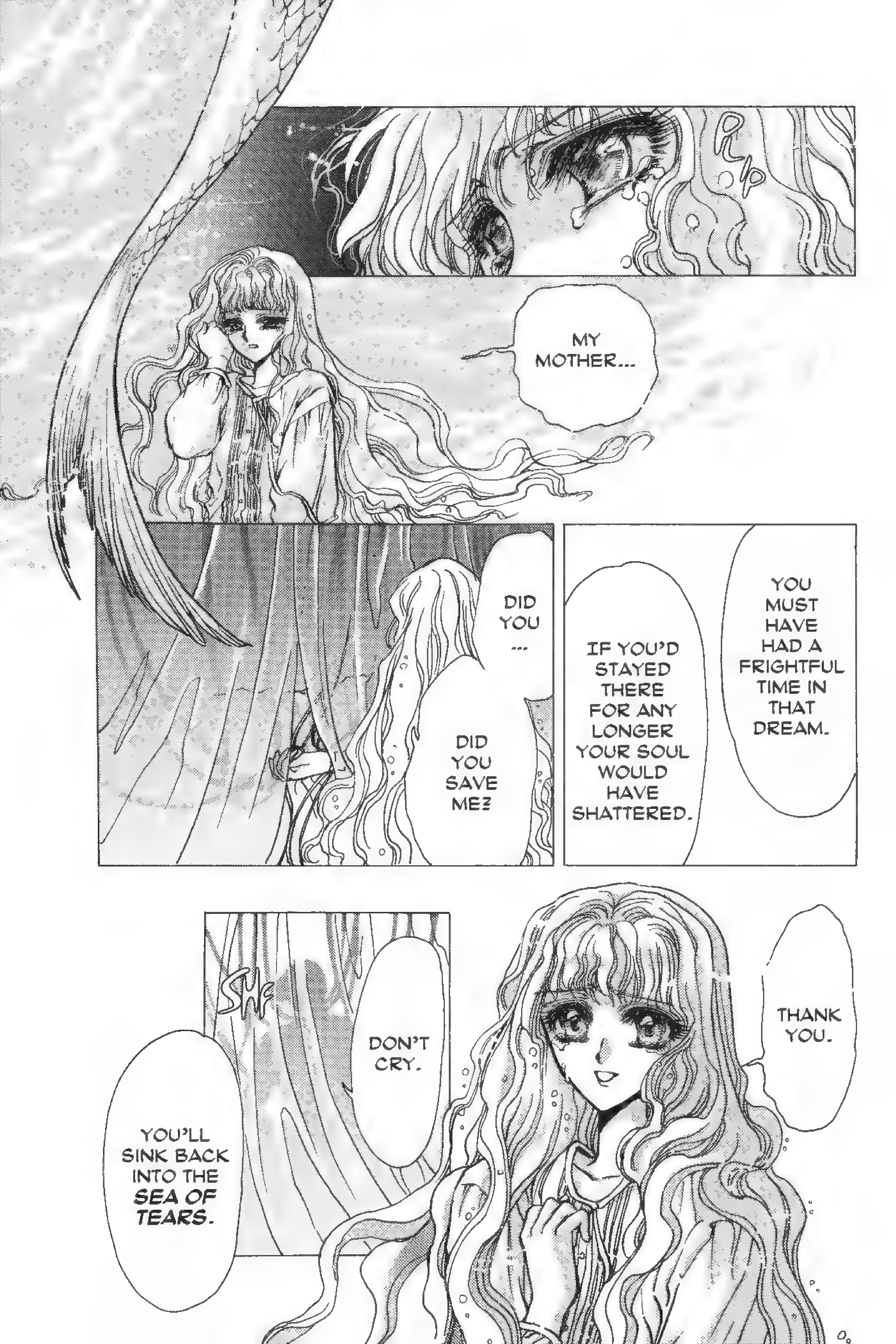

IT... HURTS...
FLUF...
IF I KEEP GOING LIKE THIS I'M GOING TO SINK INTO THAT DARKNESS BELOW...
SHAOO
...AND I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO LEAVE THE WATER AGAIN.
SHAAAAAAA

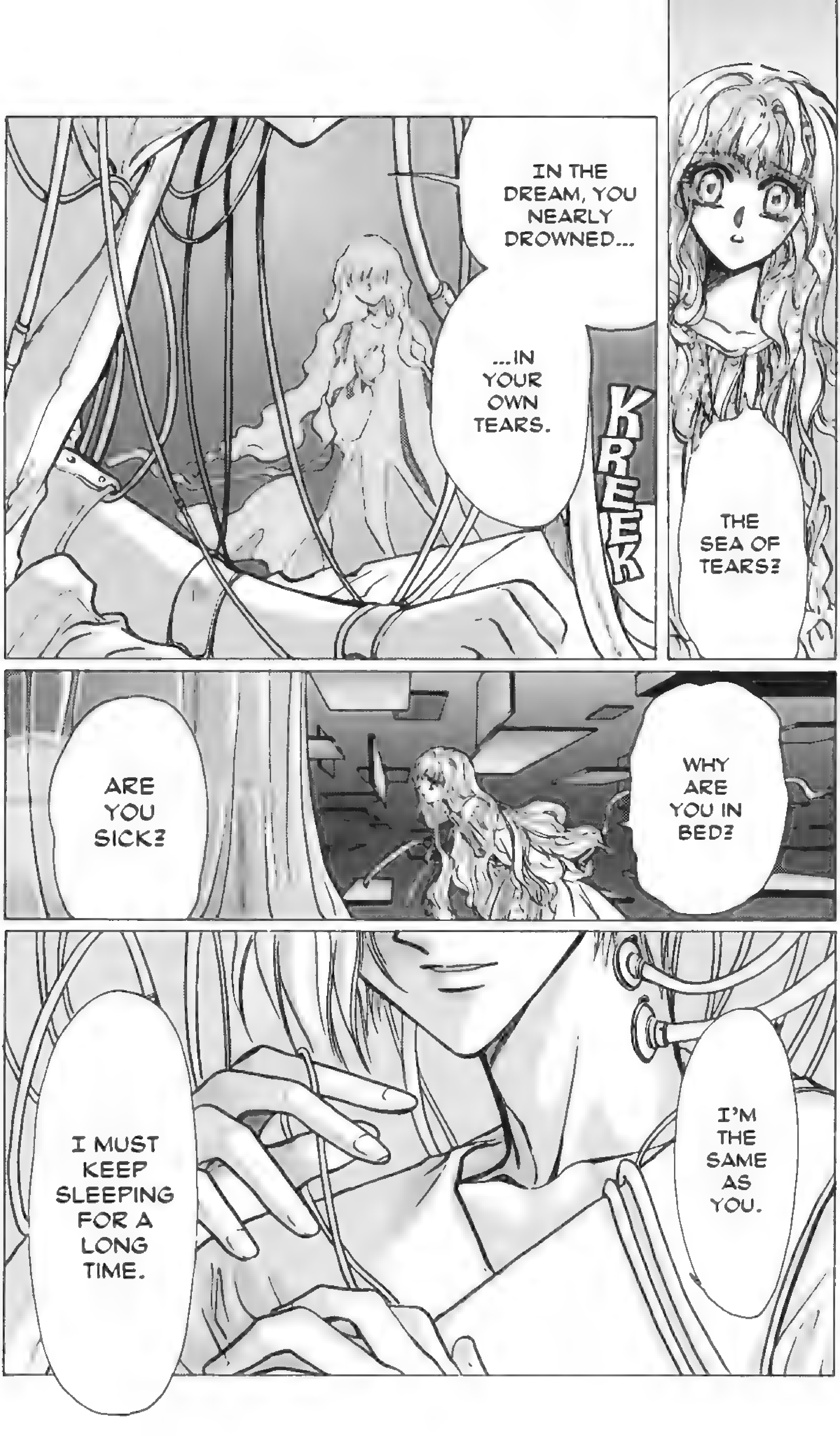

VWIP
BE CAREFUL. IF YOU SINK TOO FAR...
...YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO RETURN.
GRRP
WHO ...?
THIS WAY.
COME BACK.
SPLISH
SSH...

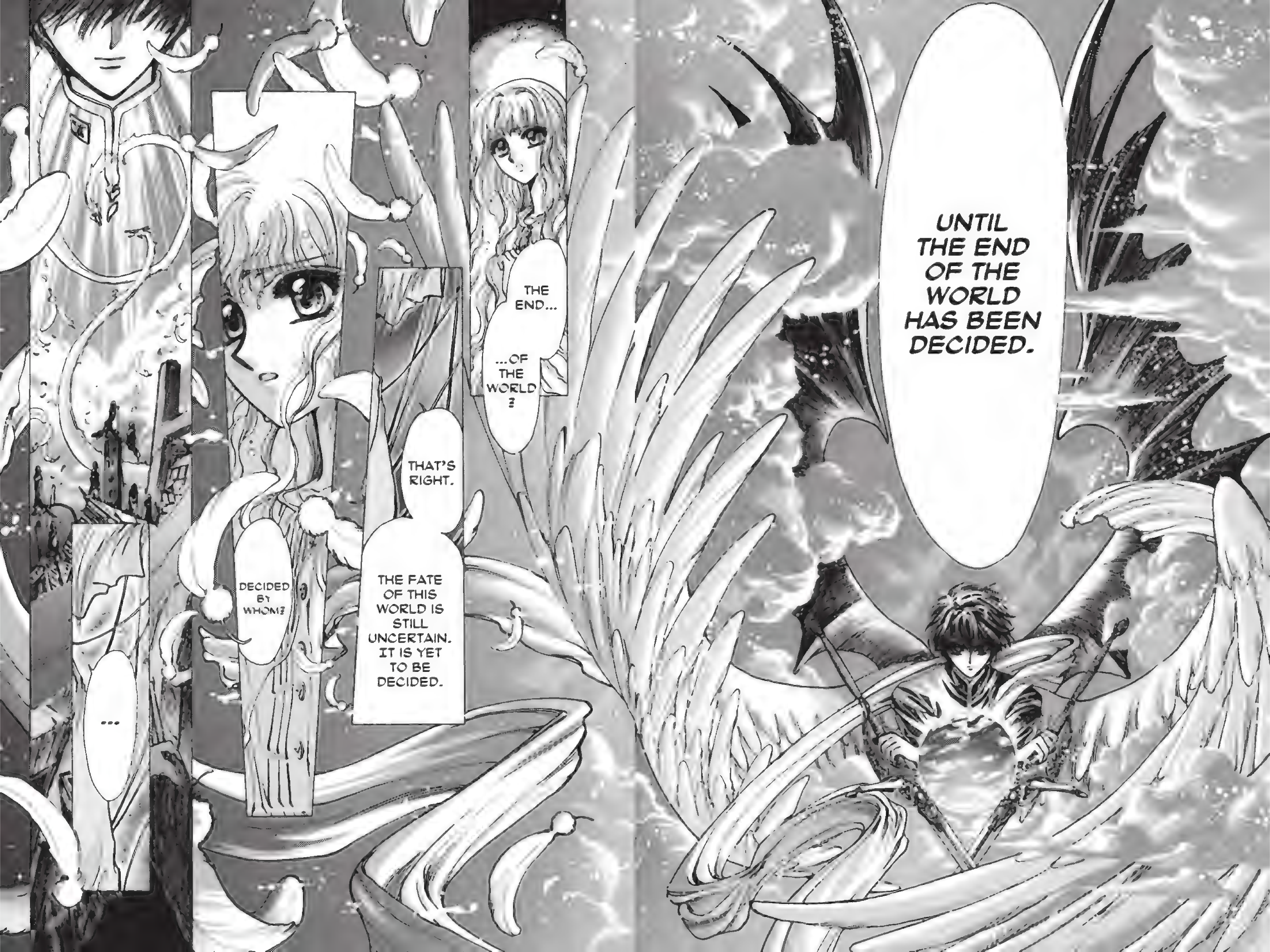

WHO ...
...ARE YOU?

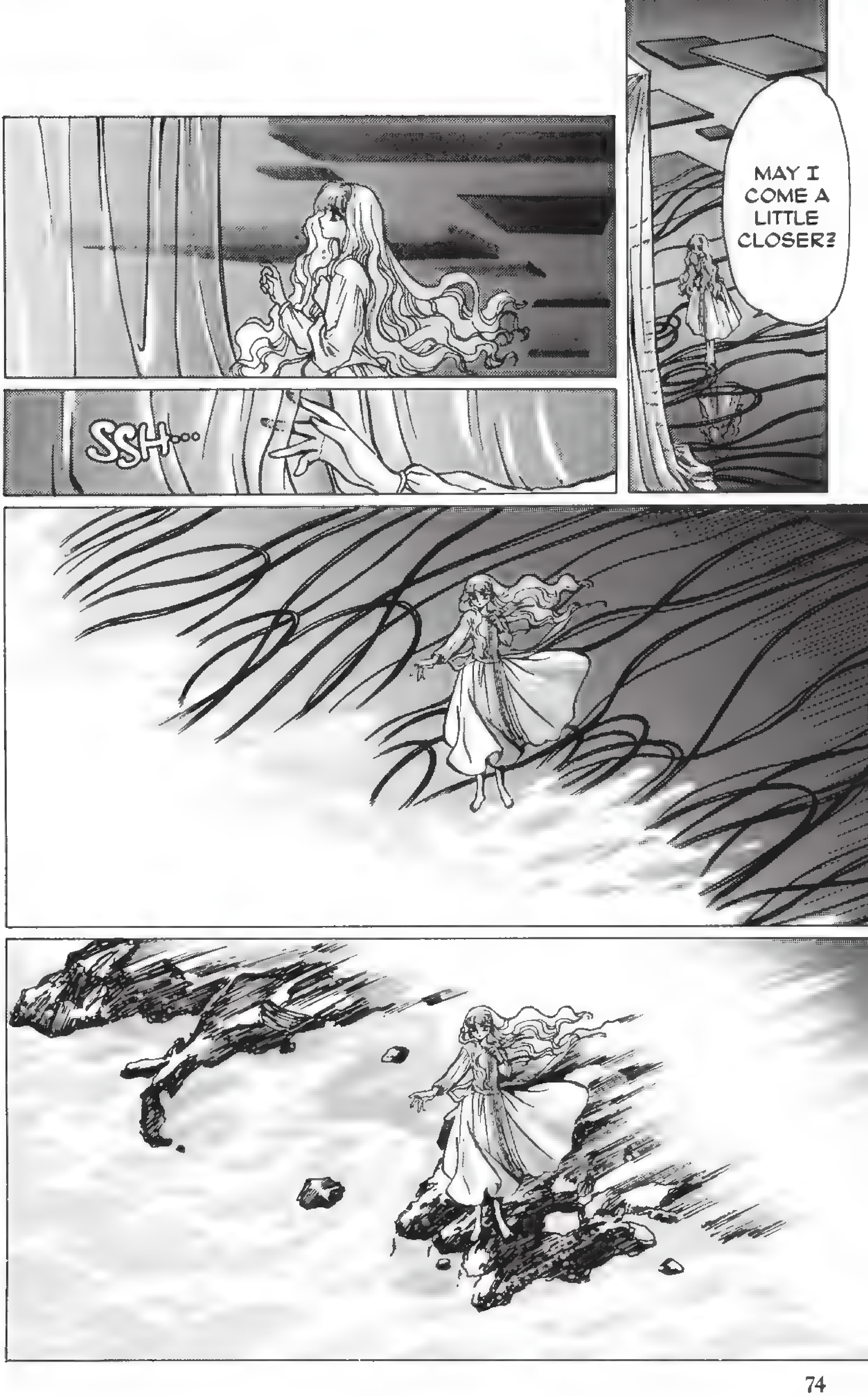

I AM... ONE WHO CROSSES THROUGH DREAMS.

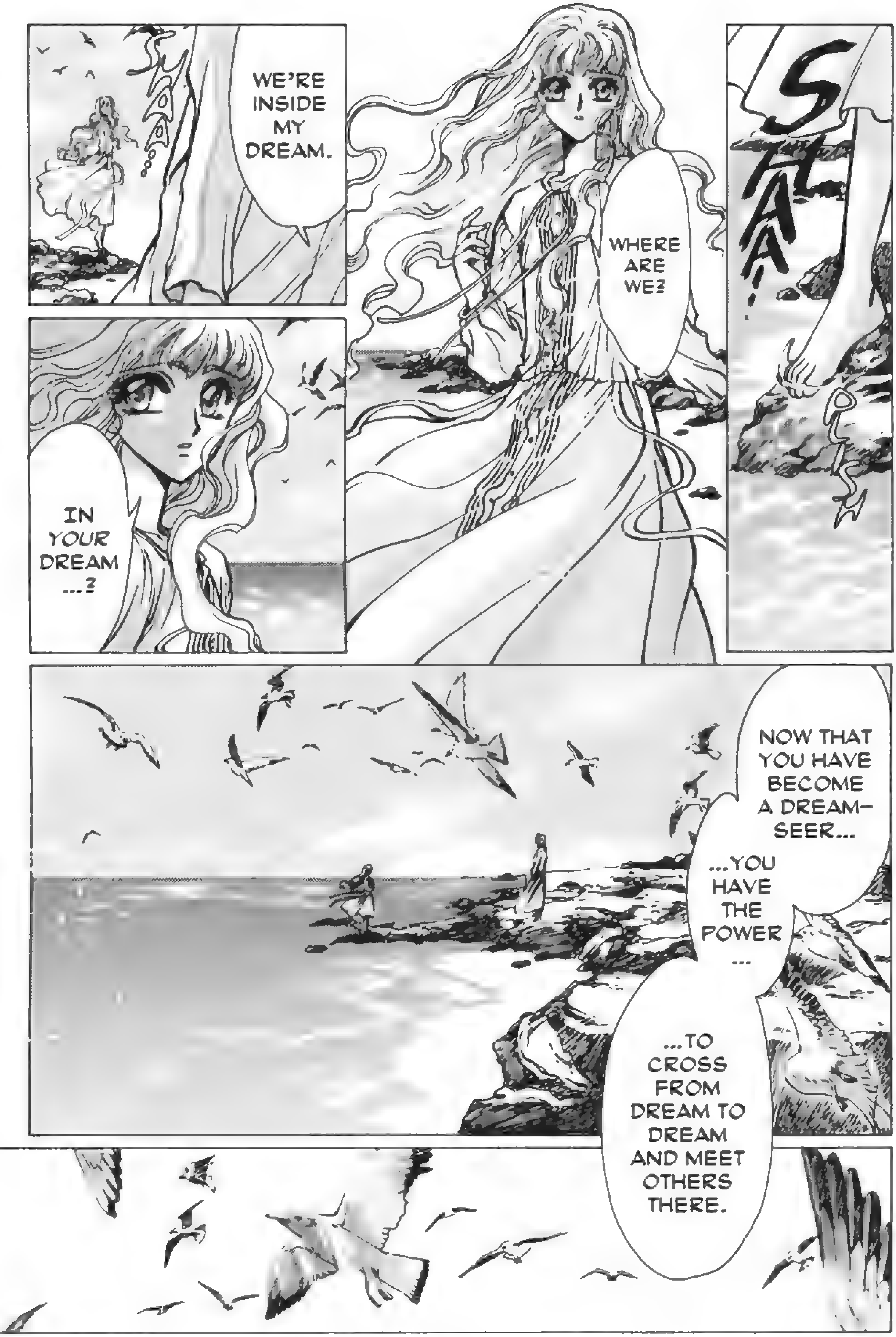

CROSSES THROUGH DREAMS ...?
YOU WERE NEARLY TRAPPED IN A DREAM.
A TERRIBLE THING HAPPENED TO YOU...
...AND SO YOUR SOUL REFUSED TO WAKE.
ARE YOU SAYING I'M ASLEEP?
YOUR HEART IS, YES.
MY HEART ...?
YOU WERE BORN WITH THE GIFT OF DREAMGAZING.
BUT YOU PASSED INTO A DEEP SLEEP WITHOUT HAVING FULLY AWAKENED THAT POWER.

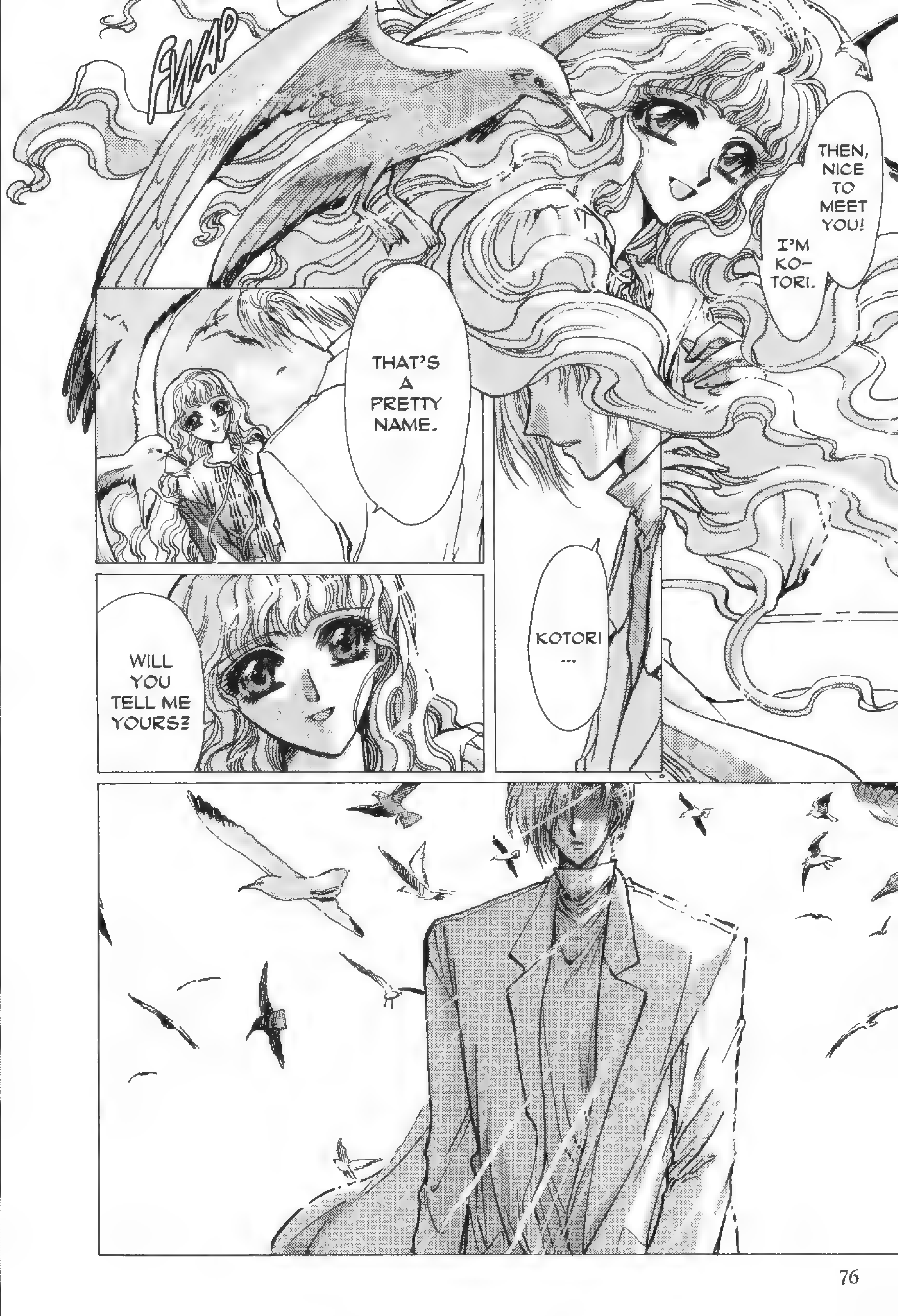

PLIP
MY MOTHER...
DID YOU ...
DID YOU SAVE ME?
YOU MUST HAVE HAD A FRIGHTFUL TIME IN THAT DREAM.
IF YOU'D STAYED THERE FOR ANY LONGER YOUR SOUL WOULD HAVE SHATTERED.
THANK YOU.
DON'T CRY.
SHF
YOU'LL SINK BACK INTO THE **SEA OF TEARS.**

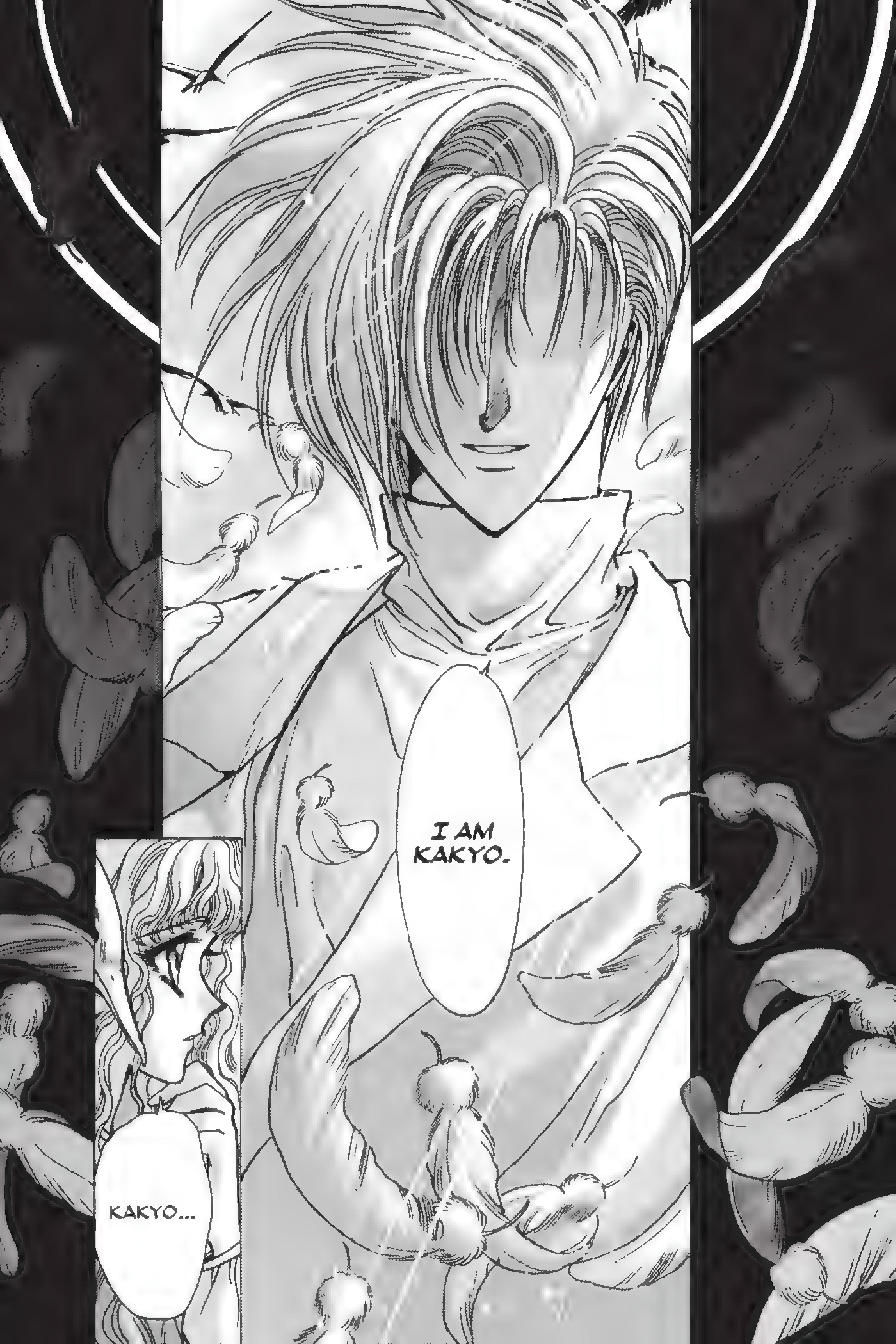

THE SEA OF TEARS?
IN THE DREAM, YOU NEARLY DROWNED...
...IN YOUR OWN TEARS.
KREEK
WHY ARE YOU IN BED?
ARE YOU SICK?
I'M THE SAME AS YOU.
I MUST KEEP SLEEPING FOR A LONG TIME.

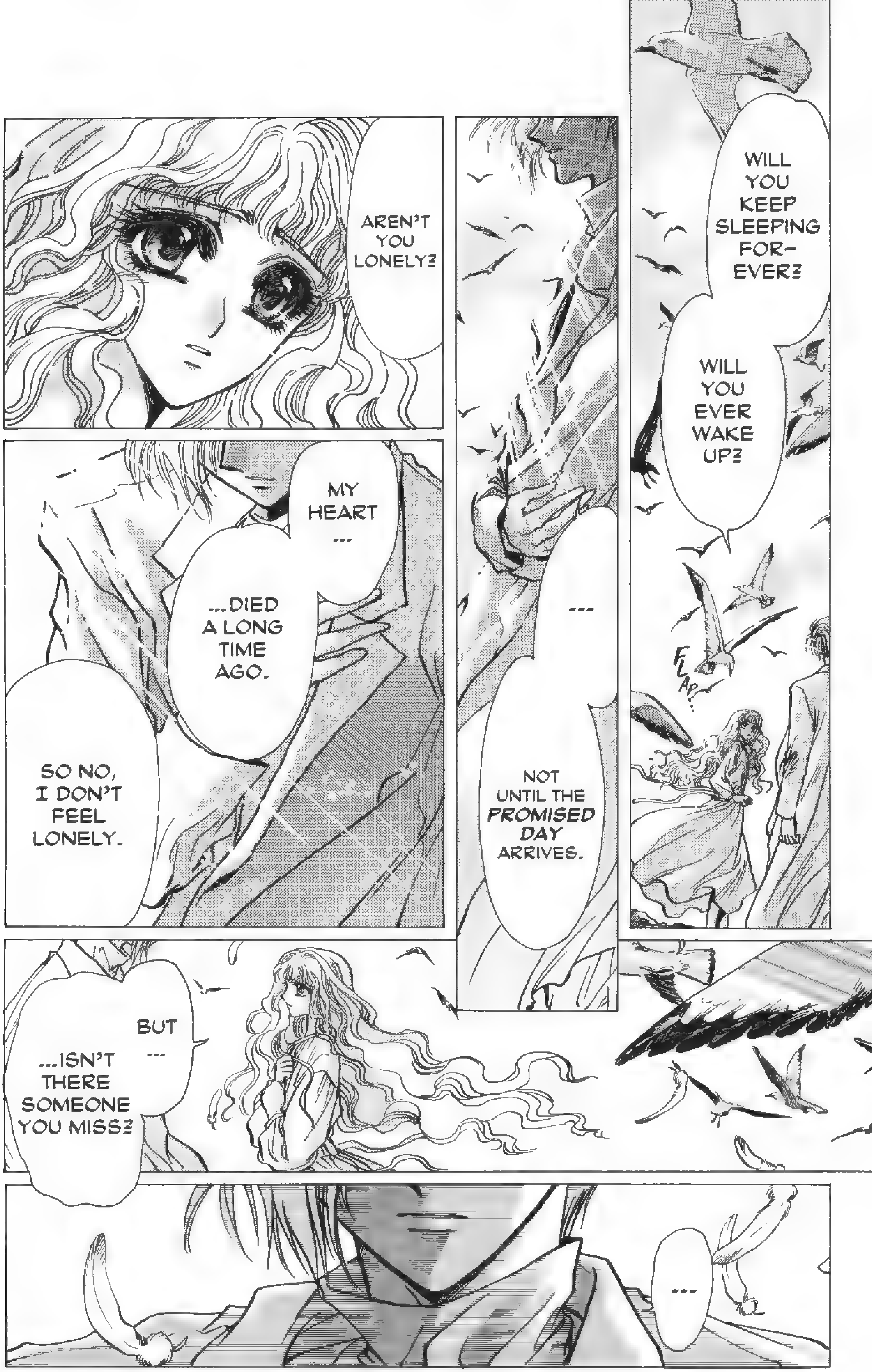

UNTIL THE END OF THE WORLD HAS BEEN DECIDED.
THE END...
...OF THE WORLD?
THAT'S RIGHT.
THE FATE OF THIS WORLD IS STILL UNCERTAIN. IT IS YET TO BE DECIDED.
DECIDED BY WHOM?
...

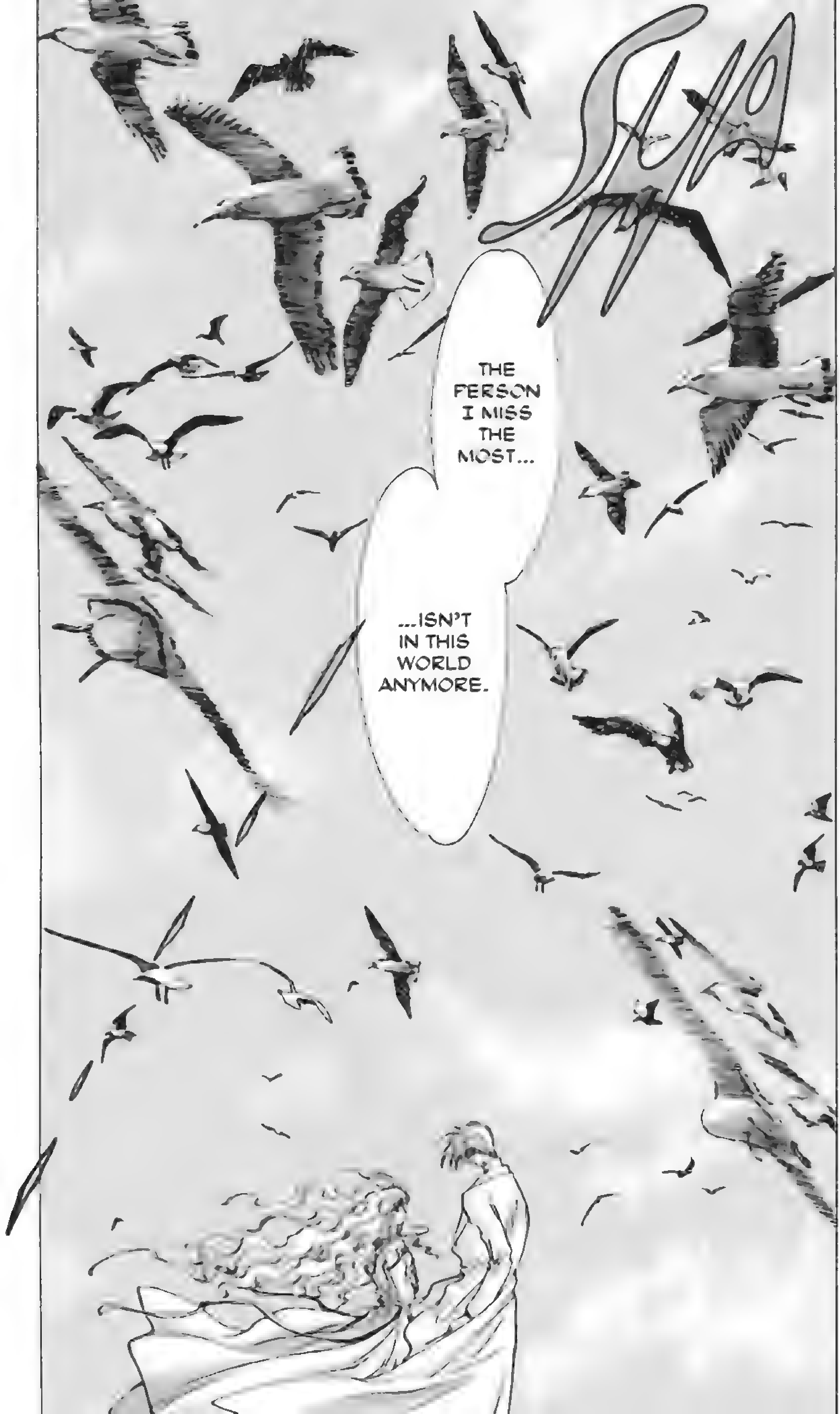

MAY I COME A LITTLE CLOSER?
SSH...

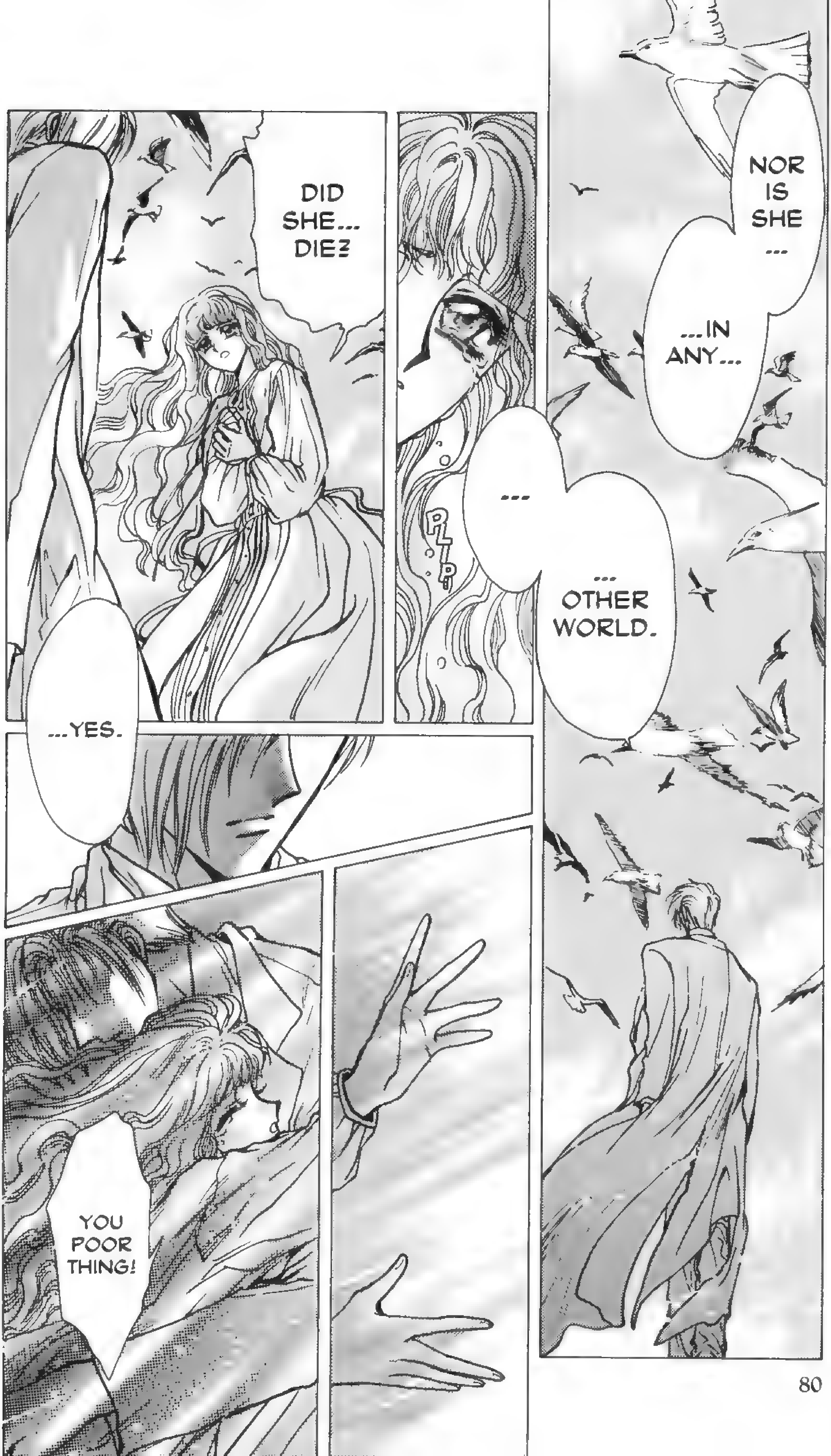

SHAA!
WHERE ARE WE?
SHAA...
WE'RE INSIDE MY DREAM.
IN YOUR DREAM ...?
NOW THAT YOU HAVE BECOME A DREAM-SEER...
...YOU HAVE THE POWER ...
...TO CROSS FROM DREAM TO DREAM AND MEET OTHERS THERE.

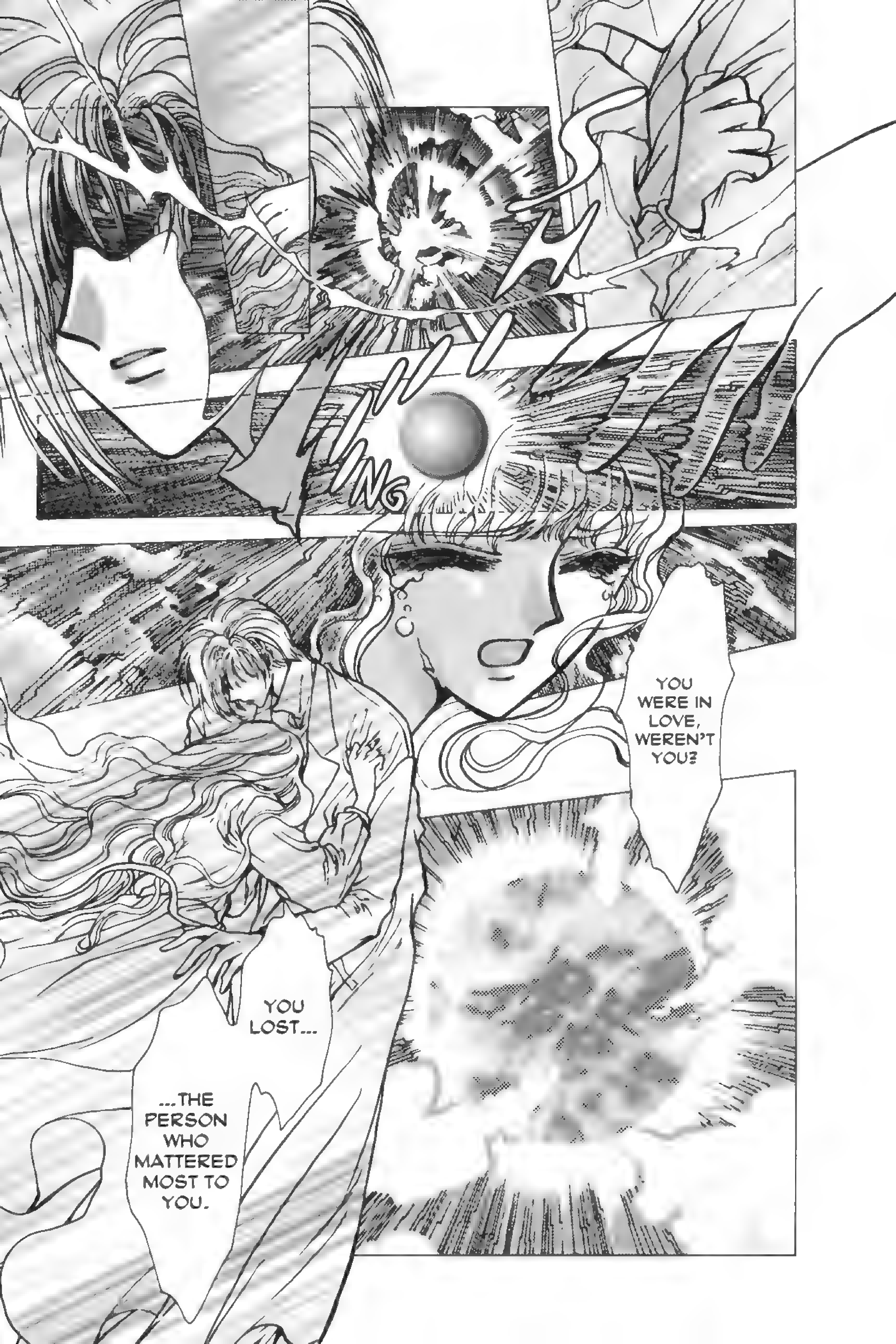

FWAP
THEN, NICE TO MEET YOU!
I'M KOTORI.
KOTORI ...
THAT'S A PRETTY NAME.
WILL YOU TELL ME YOURS?

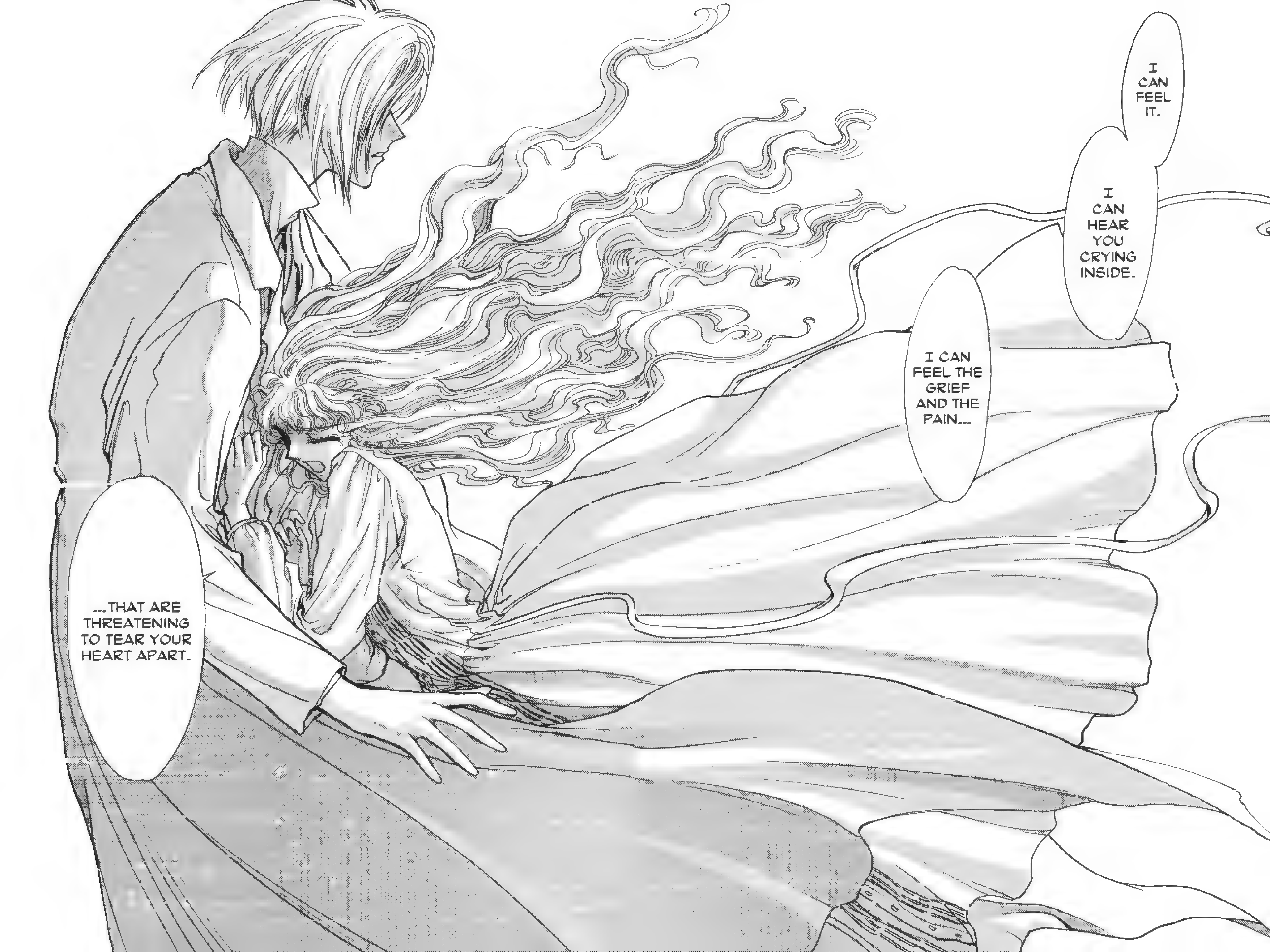

I AM KAKYO.
KAKYO...

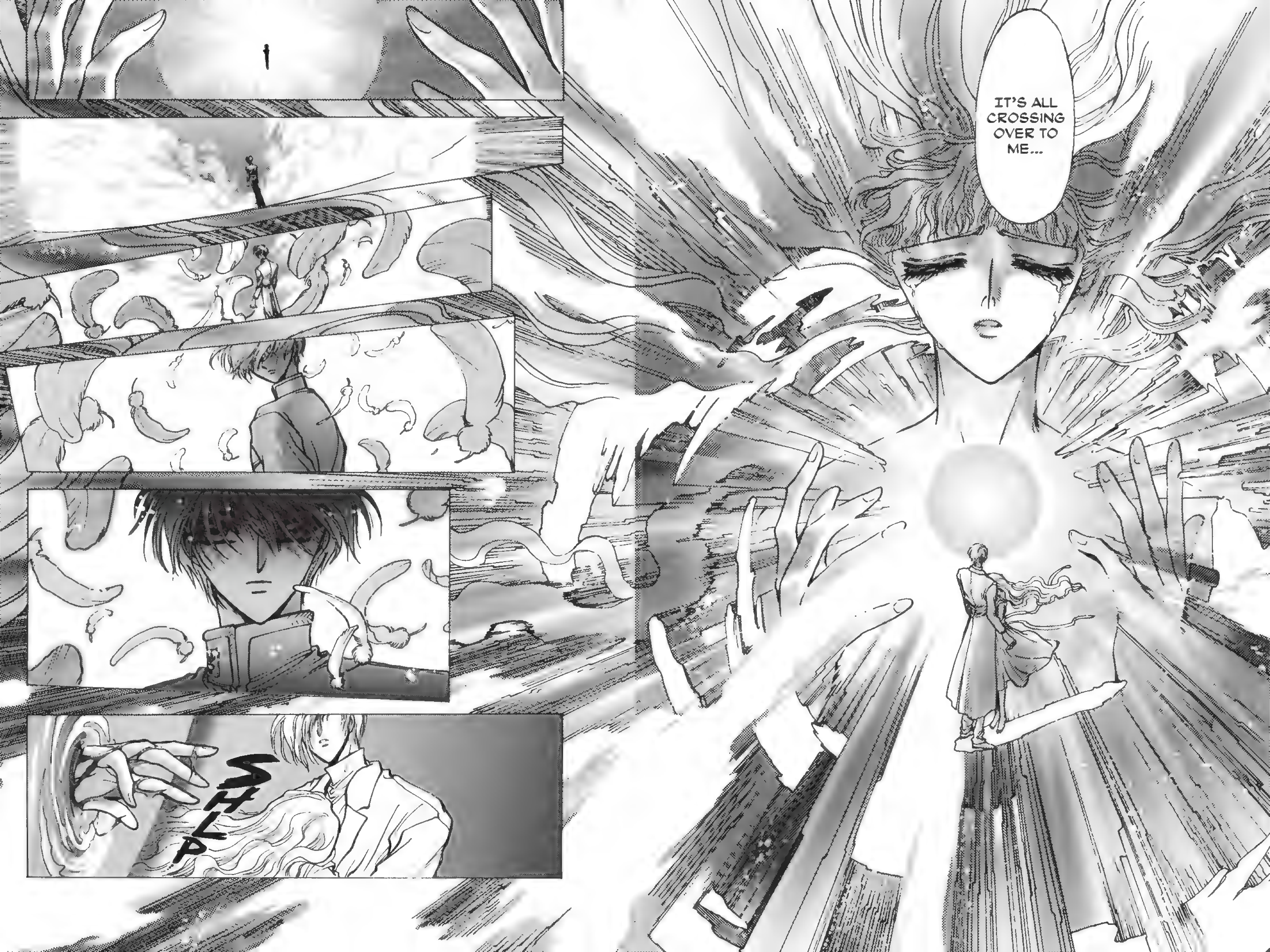

WILL YOU KEEP SLEEPING FOREVER?
WILL YOU EVER WAKE UP?
FLAP...
...
NOT UNTIL THE *PROMISED DAY* ARRIVES.
AREN'T YOU LONELY?
MY HEART...
...DIED A LONG TIME AGO.
SO NO, I DON'T FEEL LONELY.
BUT...
...ISN'T THERE SOMEONE YOU MISS?
...

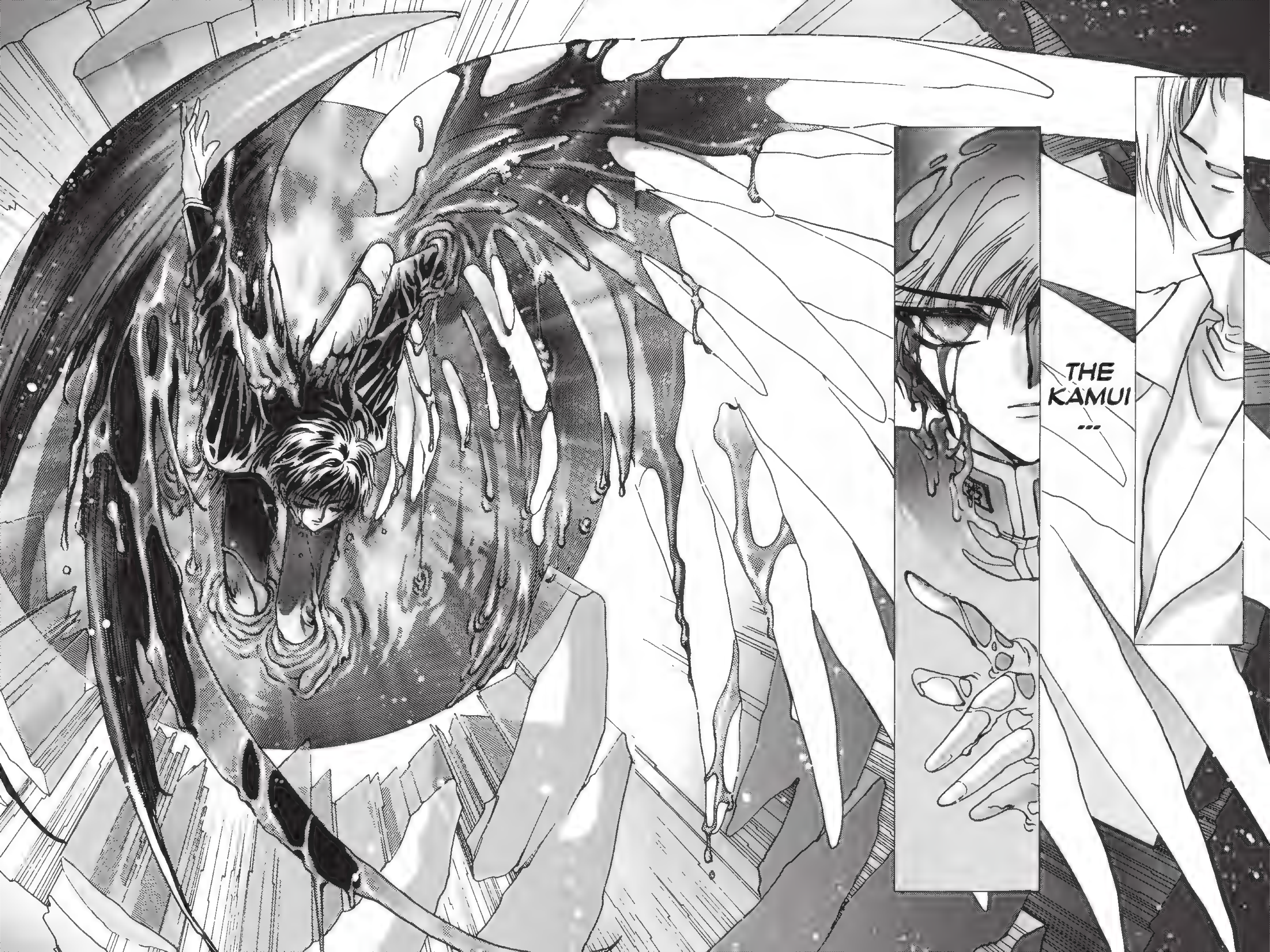

THE PERSON I MISS THE MOST...
...ISN'T IN THIS WORLD ANYMORE.

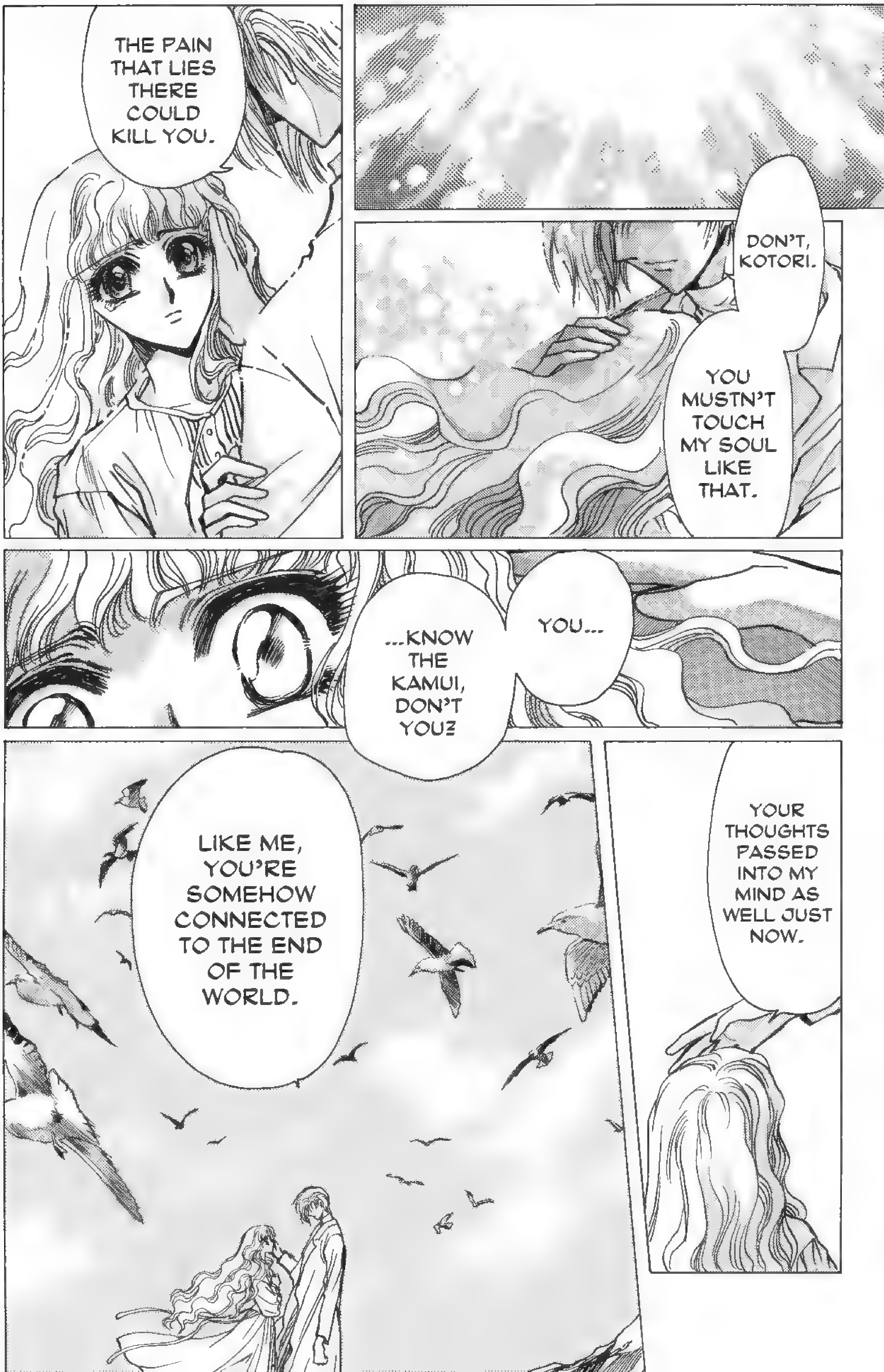

DID SHE... DIE?
...YES.
...
... OTHER WORLD.
NOR IS SHE ...
...IN ANY...
PLIP
YOU POOR THING!

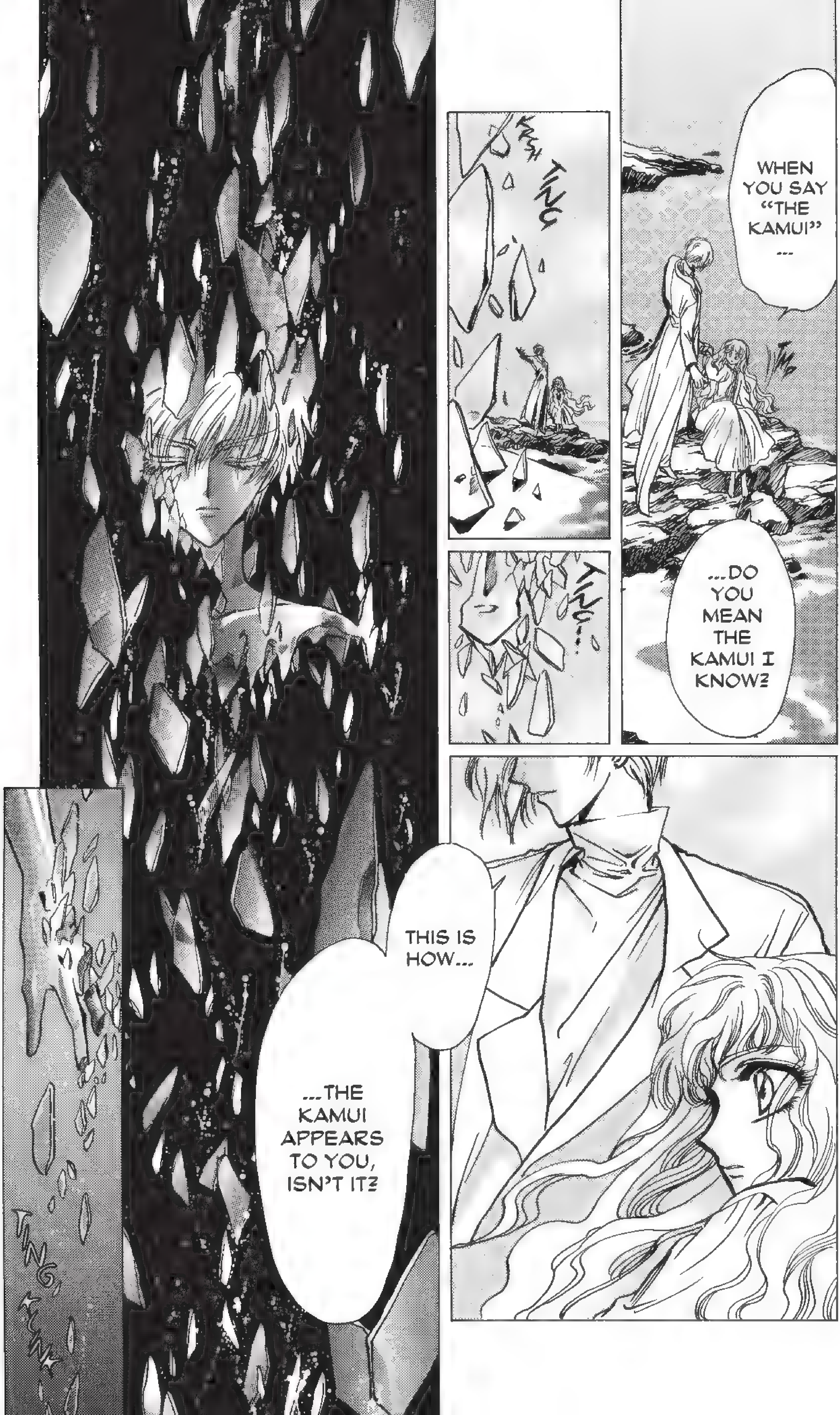

SHIIIING
YOU WERE IN LOVE, WEREN'T YOU?
YOU LOST...
...THE PERSON WHO MATTERED MOST TO YOU.

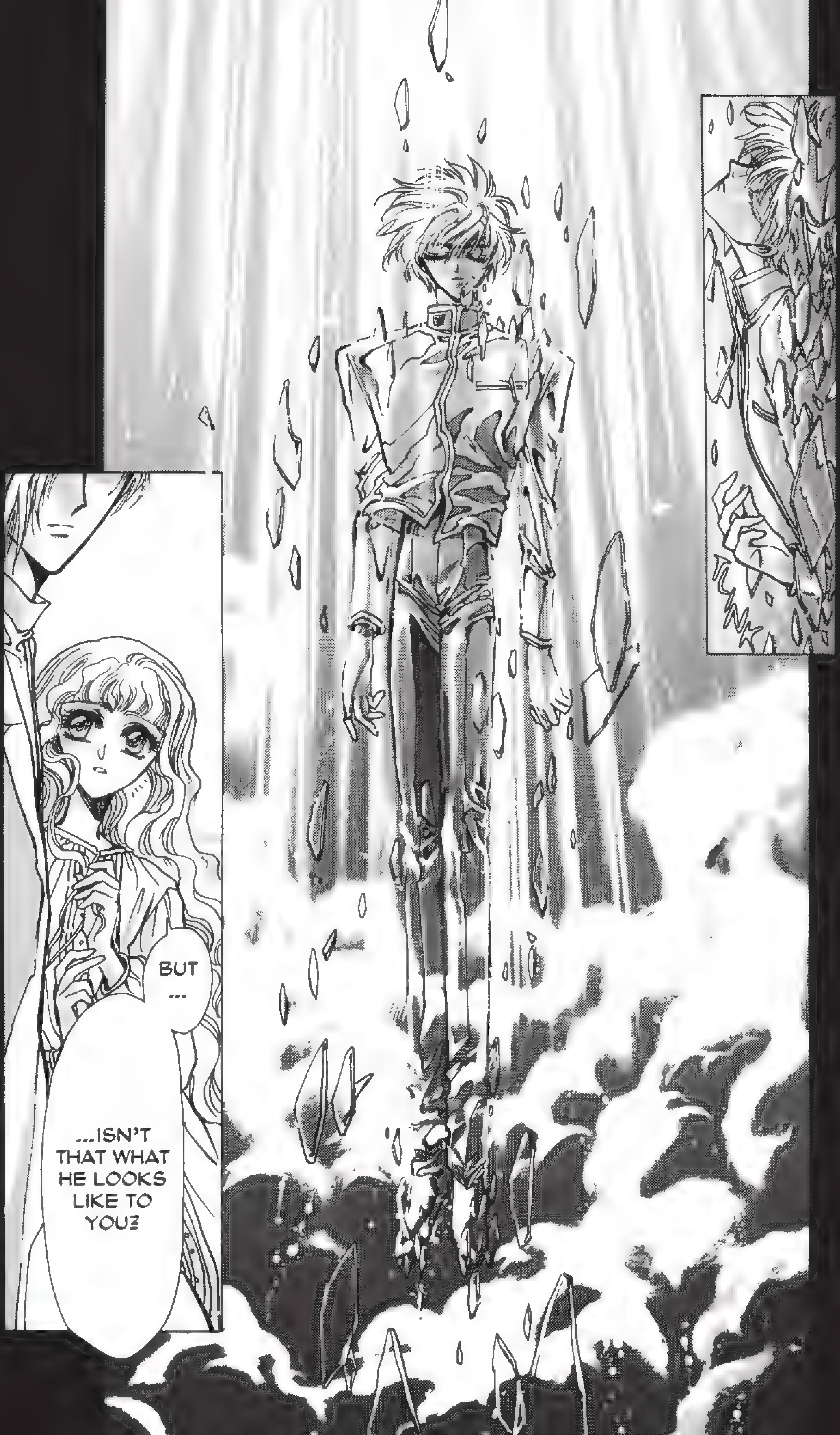

I CAN FEEL IT.
I CAN HEAR YOU CRYING INSIDE.
I CAN FEEL THE GRIEF AND THE PAIN...
...THAT ARE THREATENING TO TEAR YOUR HEART APART.

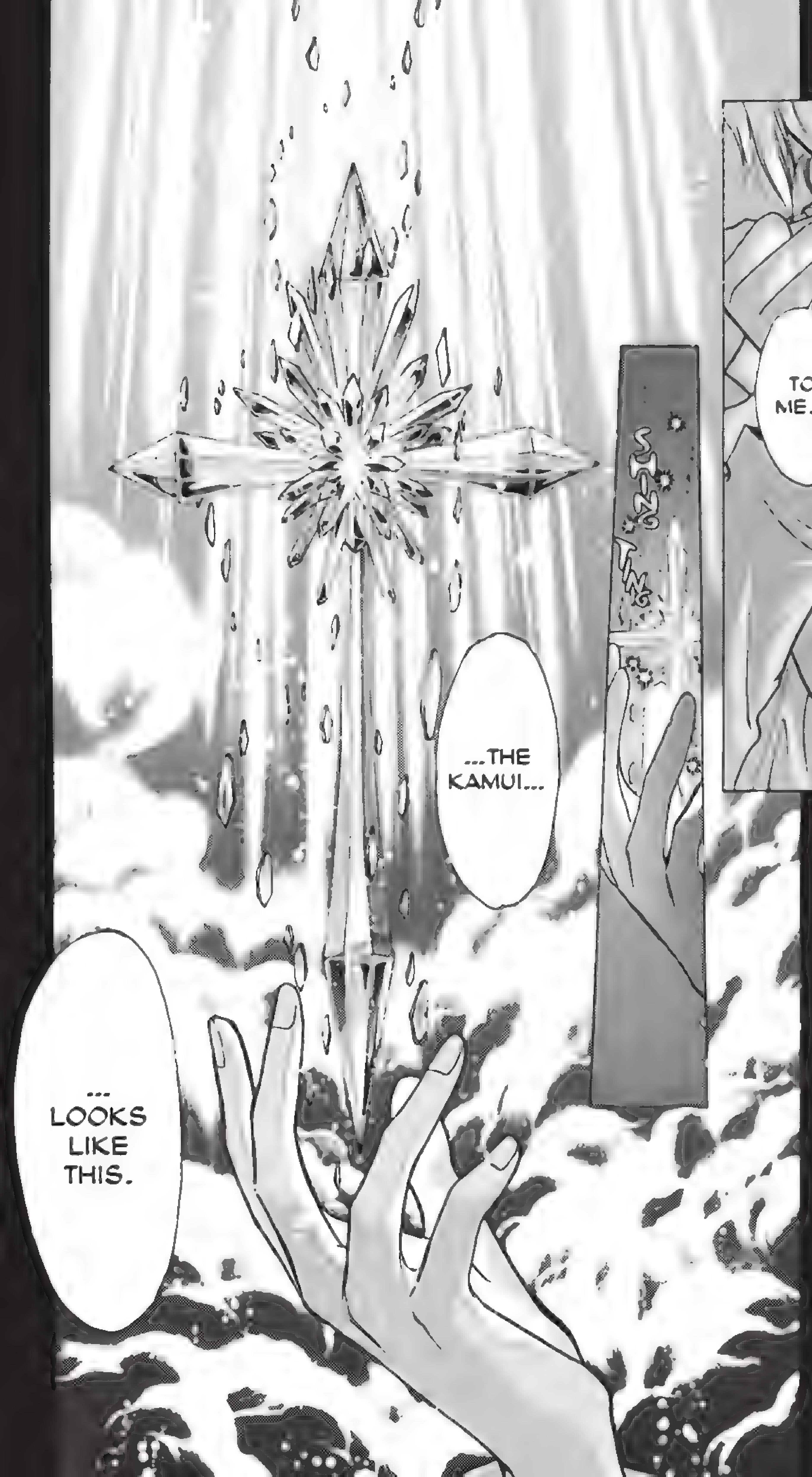

IT'S ALL CROSSING OVER TO ME...
SHLP

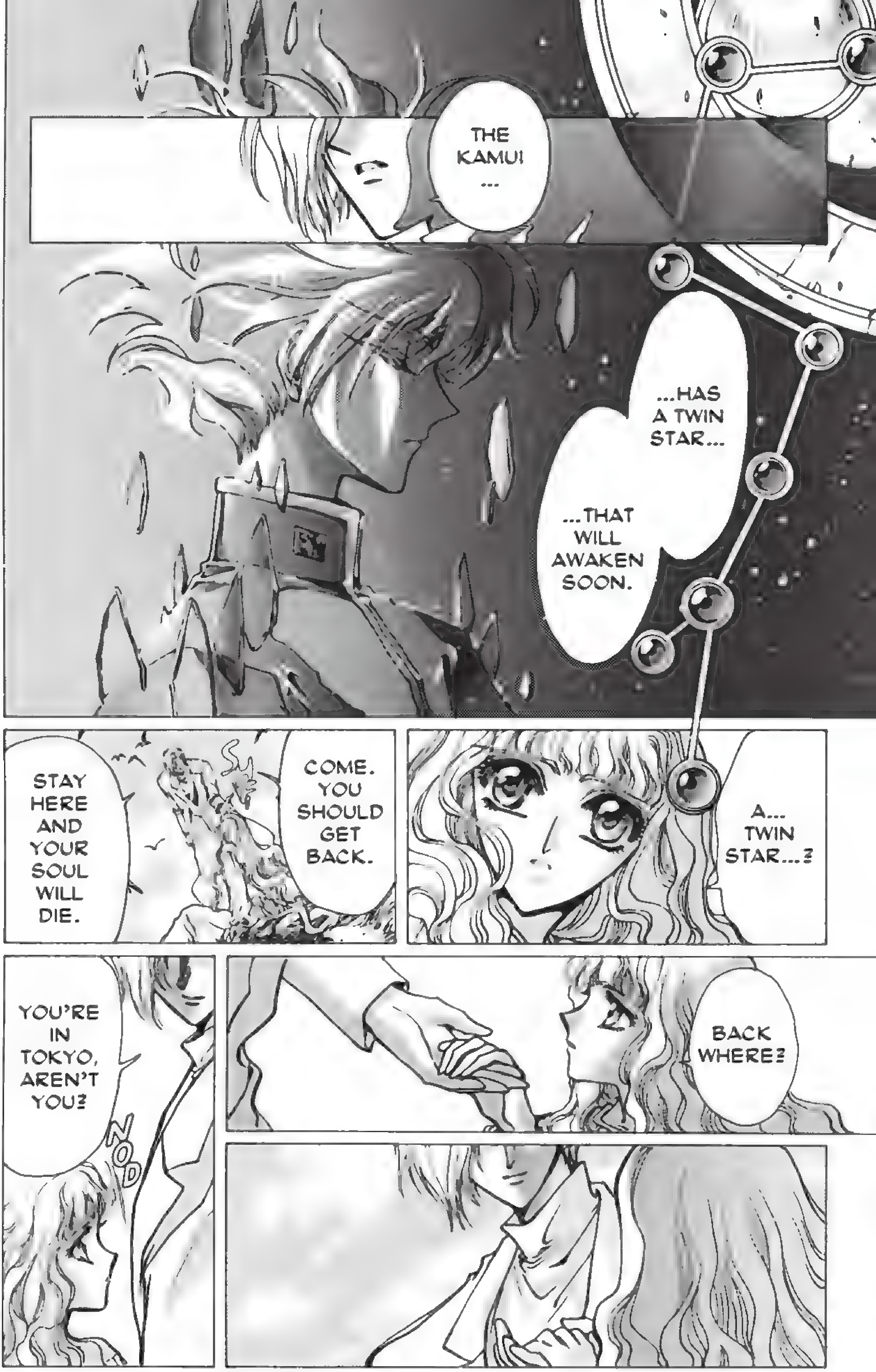

THE KAMUI ...

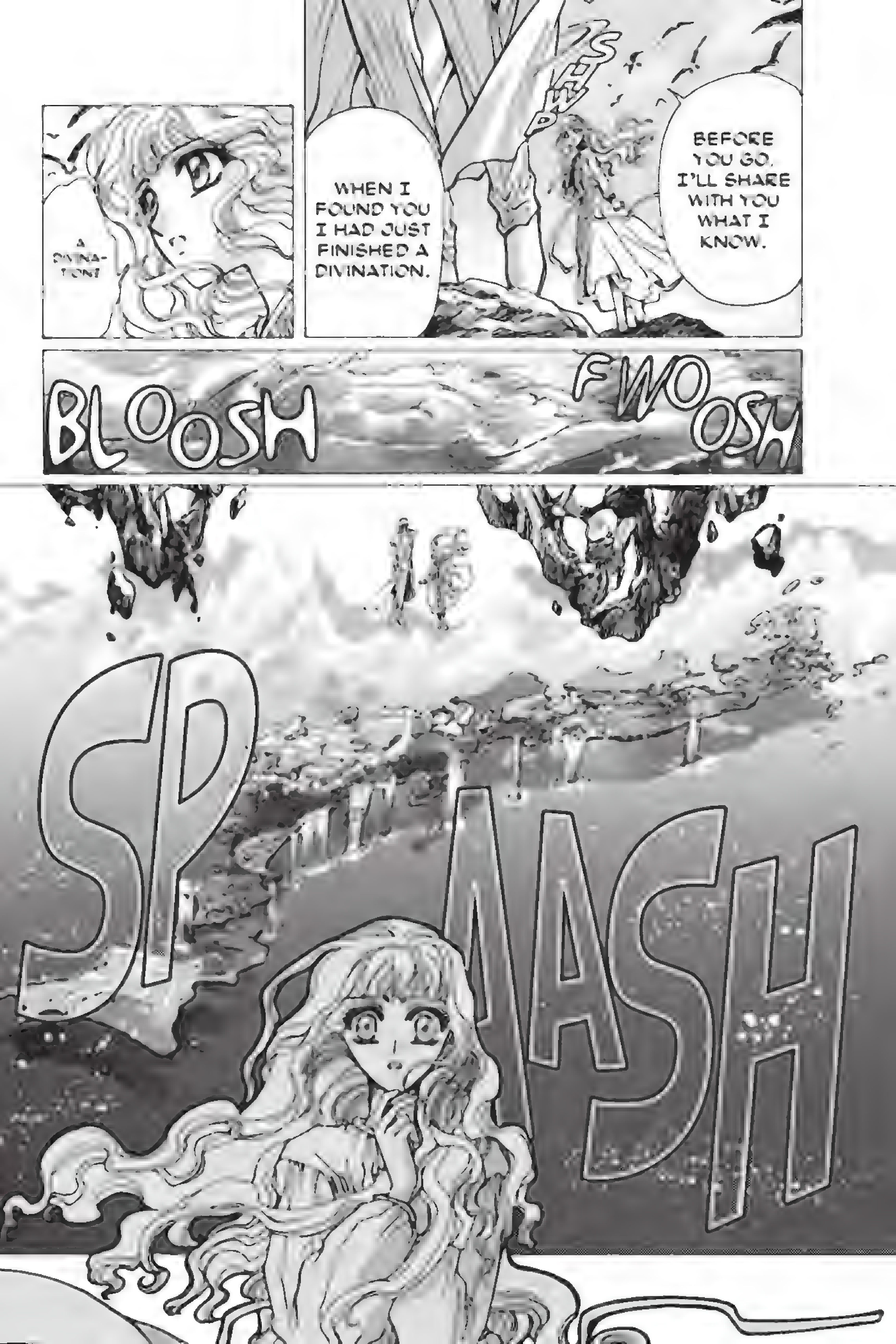

DON'T, KOTORI.
YOU MUSTN'T TOUCH MY SOUL LIKE THAT.
THE PAIN THAT LIES THERE COULD KILL YOU.
YOU...
...KNOW THE KAMUI, DON'T YOU?
YOUR THOUGHTS PASSED INTO MY MIND AS WELL JUST NOW.
LIKE ME, YOU'RE SOMEHOW CONNECTED TO THE END OF THE WORLD.

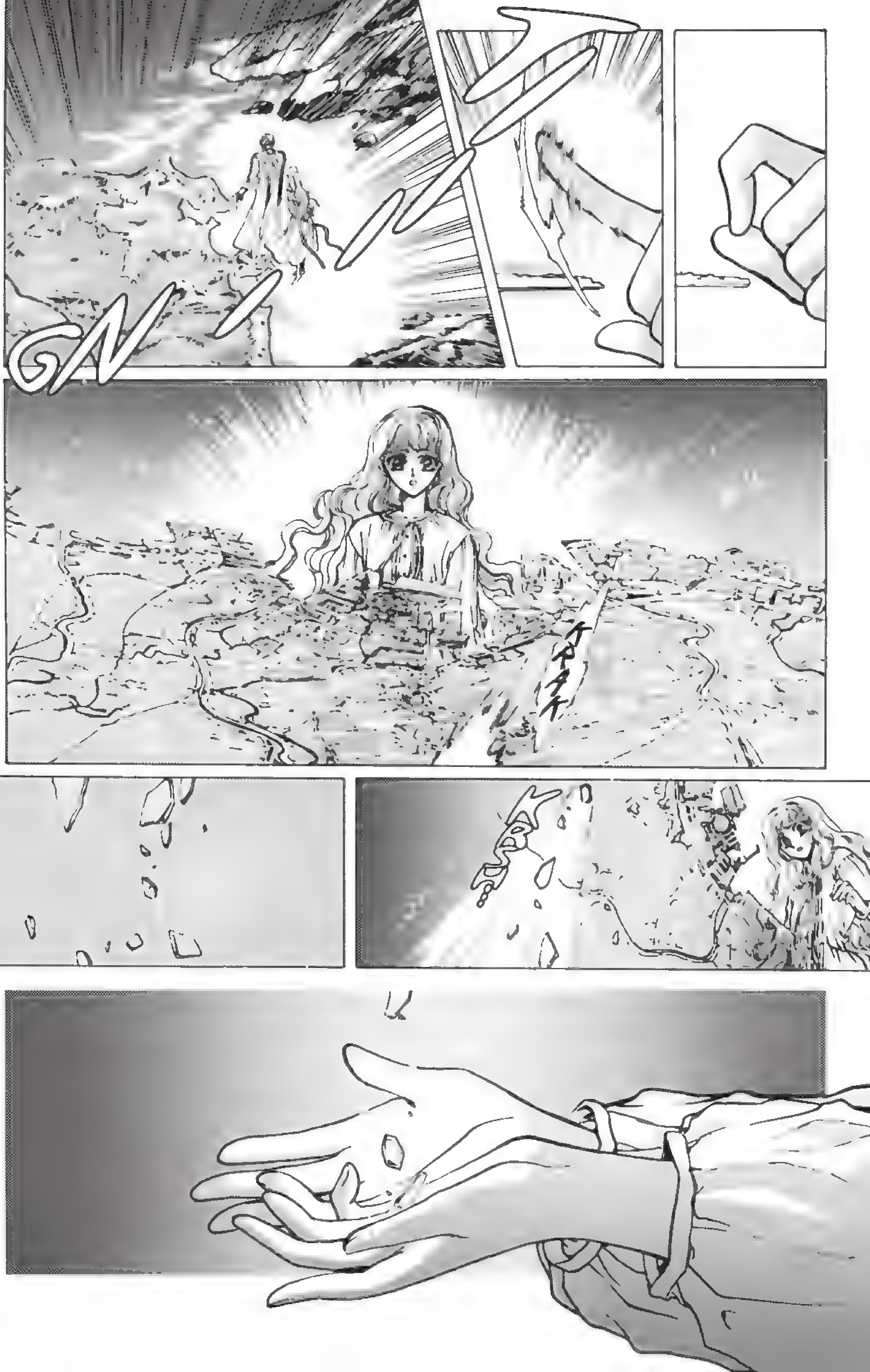

WHEN YOU SAY "THE KAMUI" ...
...DO YOU MEAN THE KAMUI I KNOW?
KRSH TING
TING!
THIS IS HOW...
...THE KAMUI APPEARS TO YOU, ISN'T IT?
TING KLINK

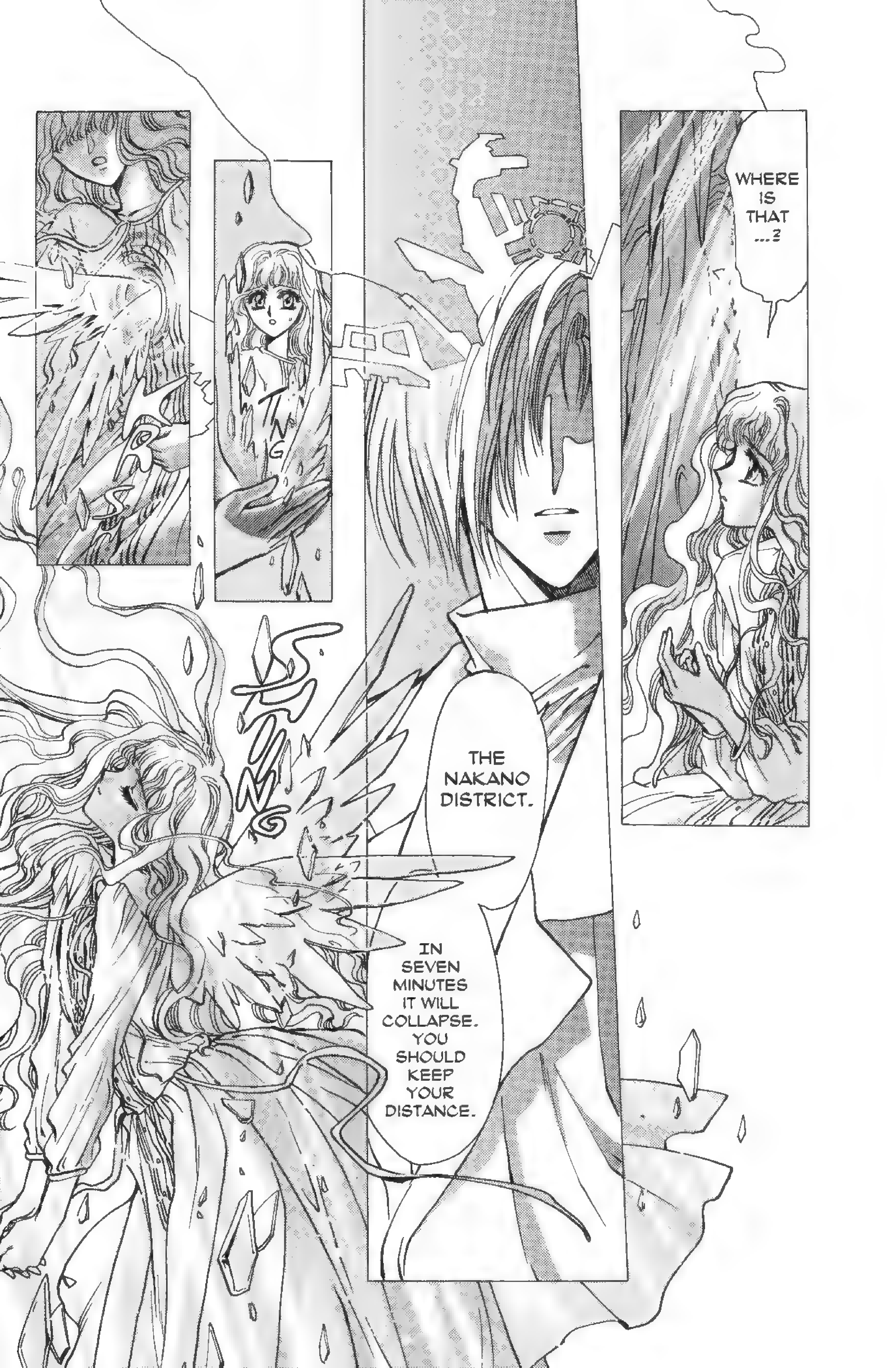

TLINK
BUT ...
...ISN'T THAT WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE TO YOU?

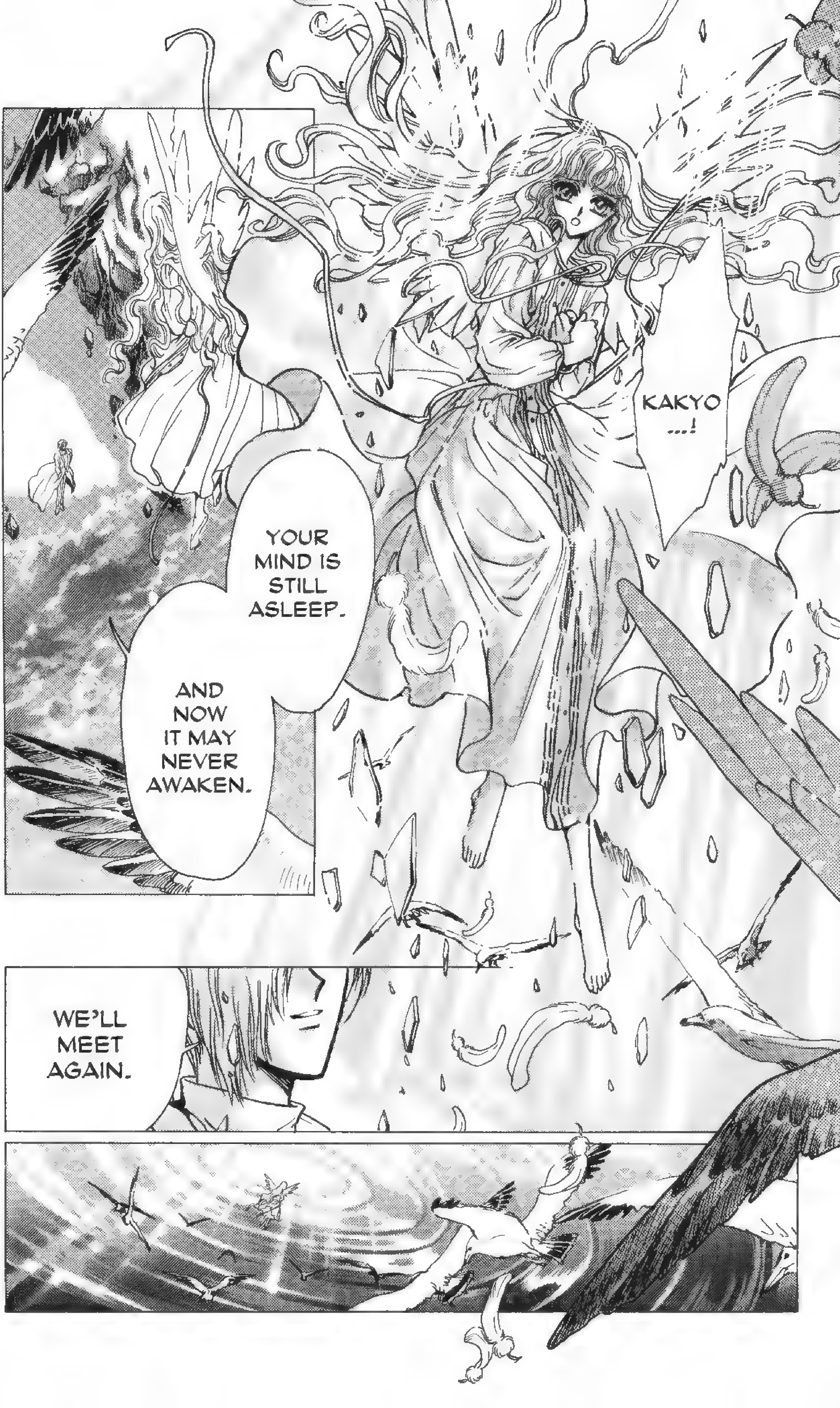

TO ME...
SHING TING
...THE KAMUI...
... LOOKS LIKE THIS.

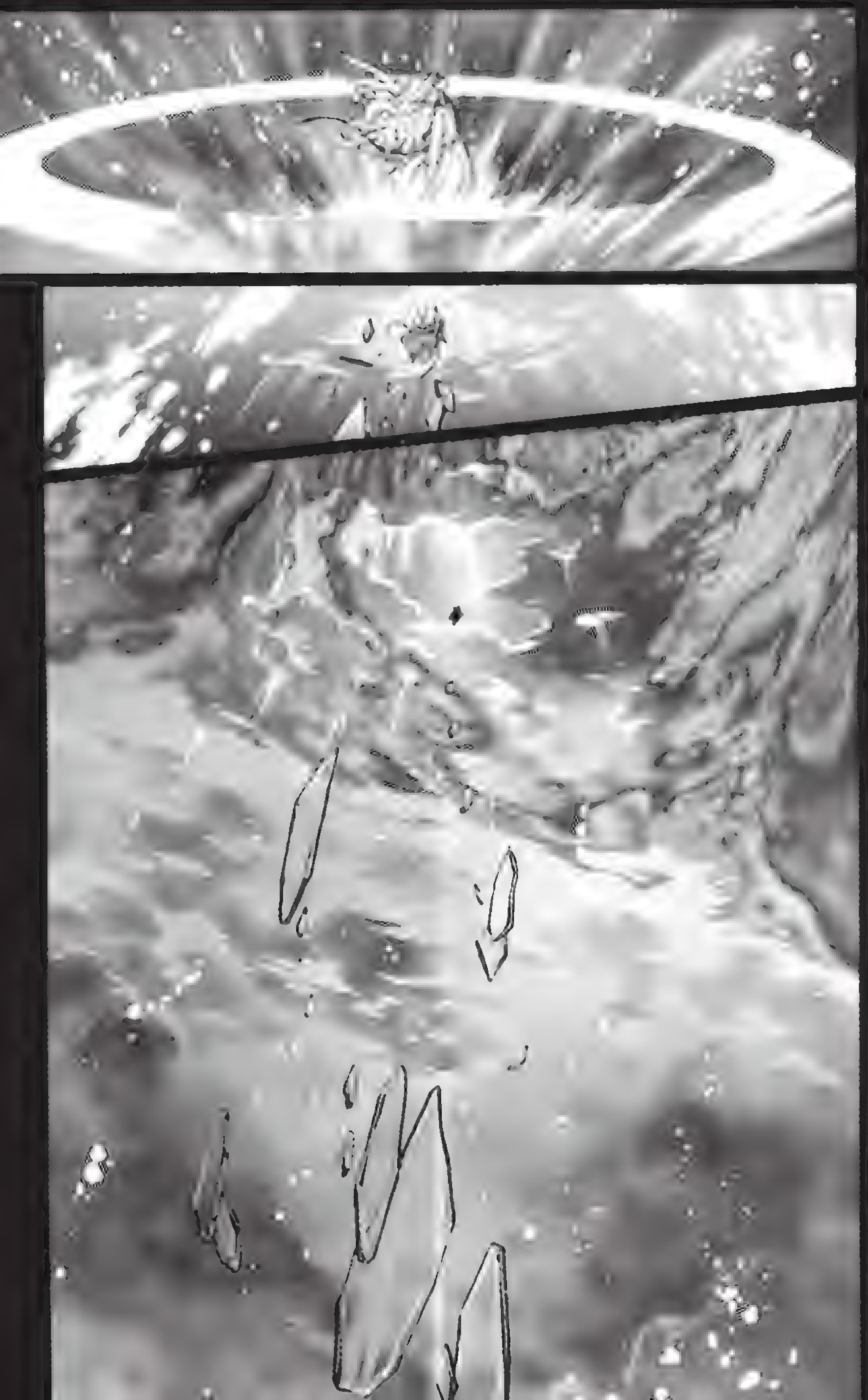

THE KAMUI ...
...HAS A TWIN STAR...
...THAT WILL AWAKEN SOON.
A... TWIN STAR...?
COME. YOU SHOULD GET BACK.
STAY HERE AND YOUR SOUL WILL DIE.
BACK WHERE?
YOU'RE IN TOKYO, AREN'T YOU?
NOD

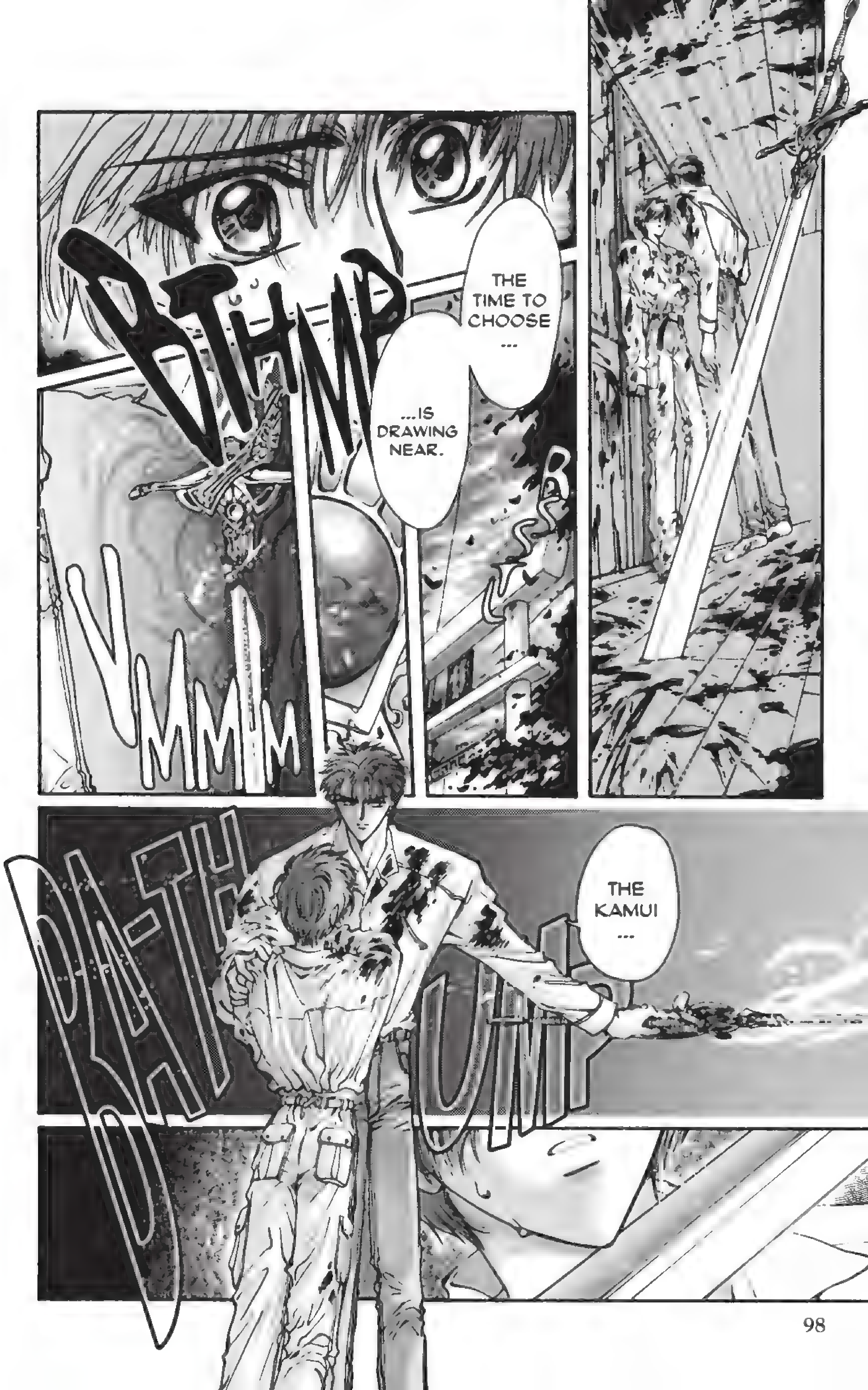

SHWD
BEFORE YOU GO, I'LL SHARE WITH YOU WHAT I KNOW.
WHEN I FOUND YOU I HAD JUST FINISHED A DIVINATION.
A DIVINATION?
FWOOSH
BLOOSH
SPLASH

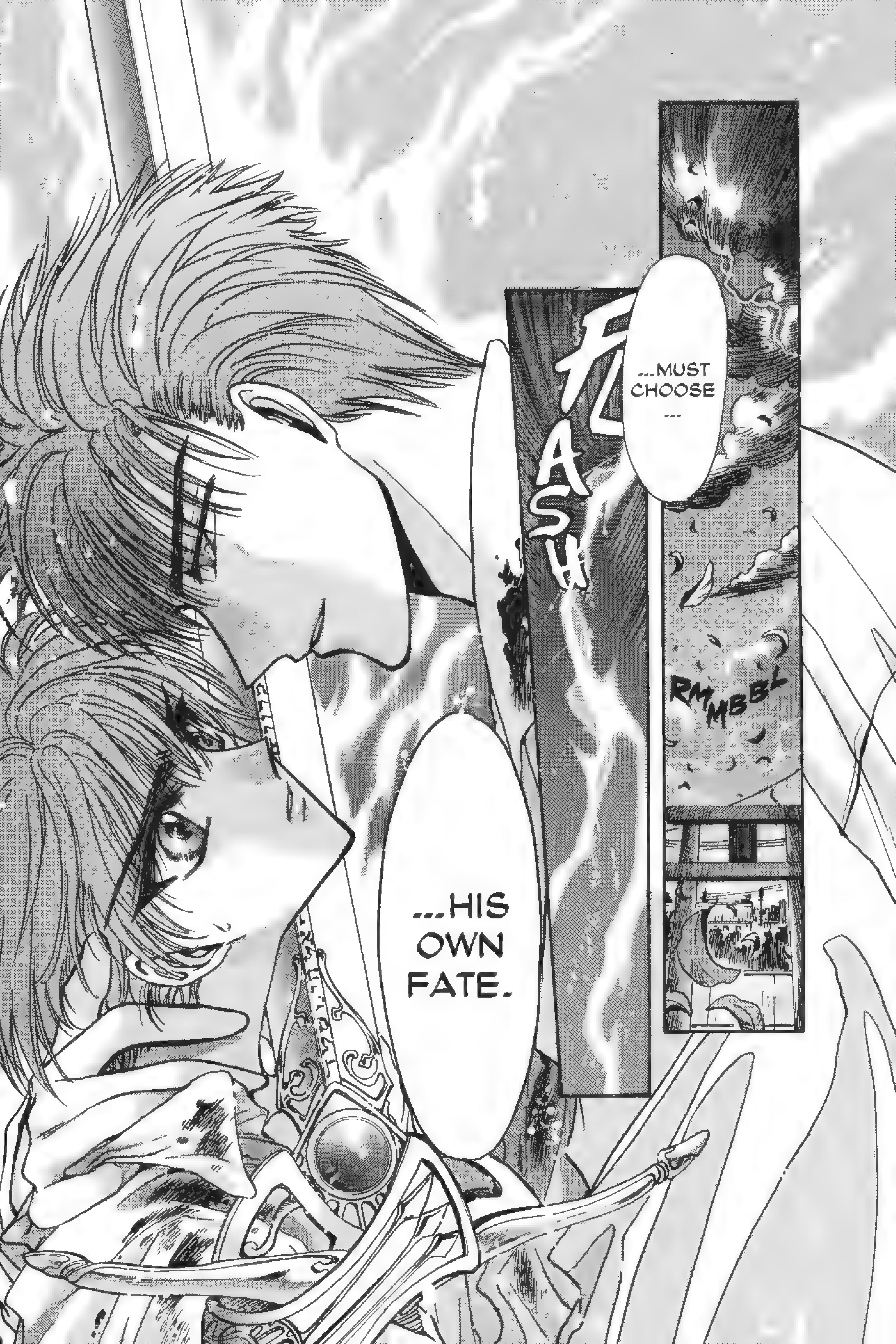

GNIIIN
KRAK

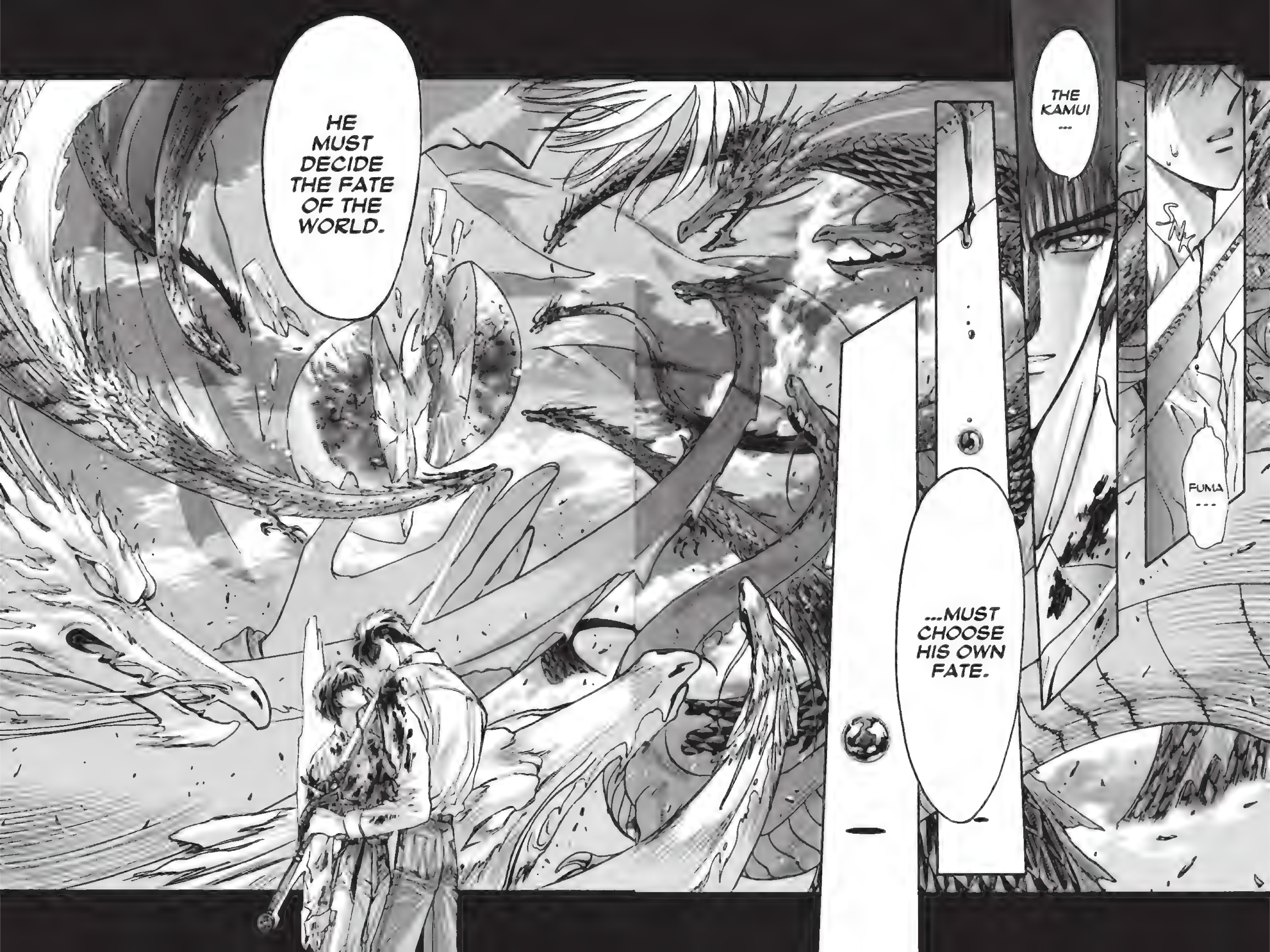

WHERE IS THAT ...?
TING
THE NAKANO DISTRICT.
IN SEVEN MINUTES IT WILL COLLAPSE. YOU SHOULD KEEP YOUR DISTANCE.
STONG

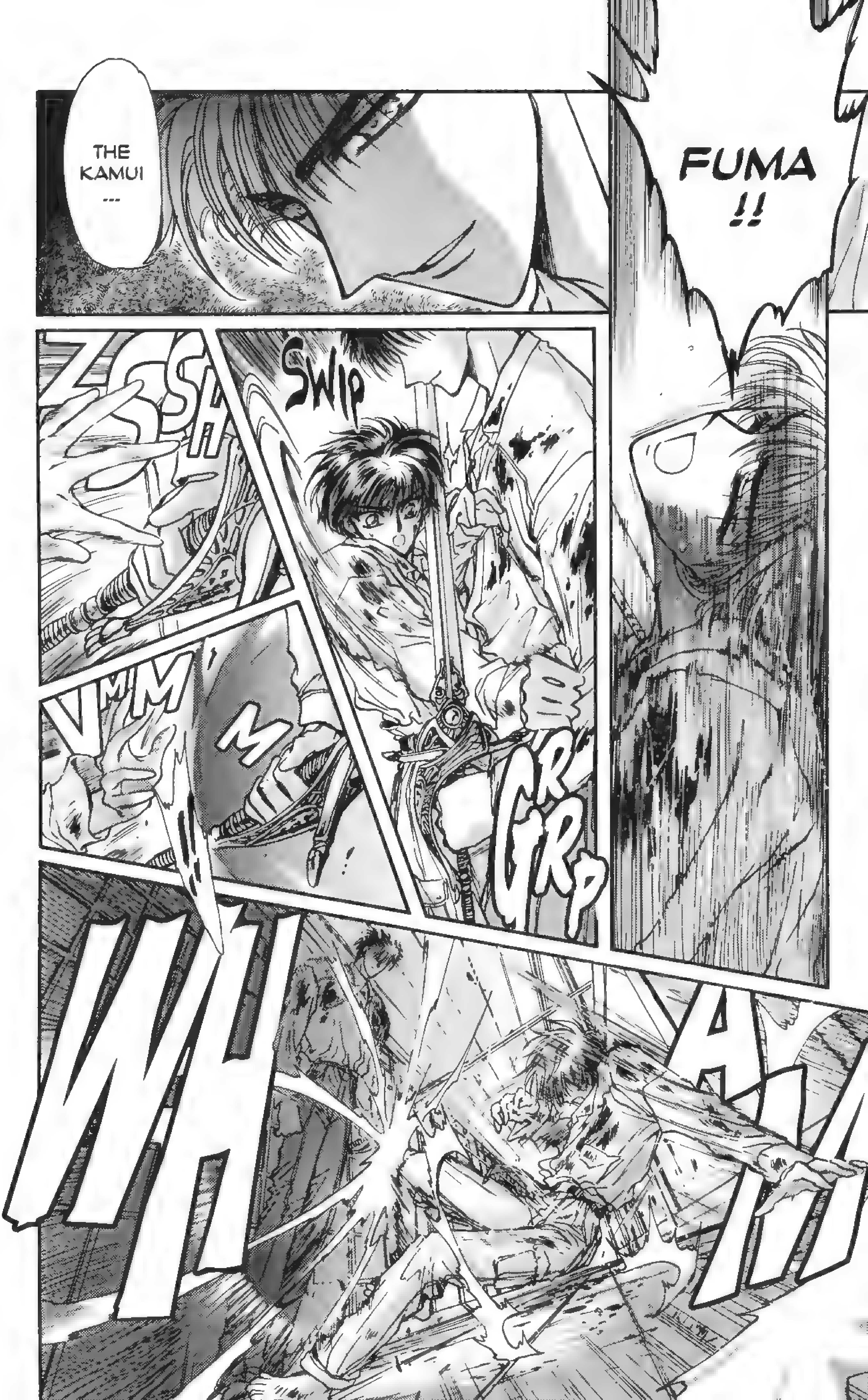

KAKYO ...!
YOUR MIND IS STILL ASLEEP.
AND NOW IT MAY NEVER AWAKEN.
WE'LL MEET AGAIN.

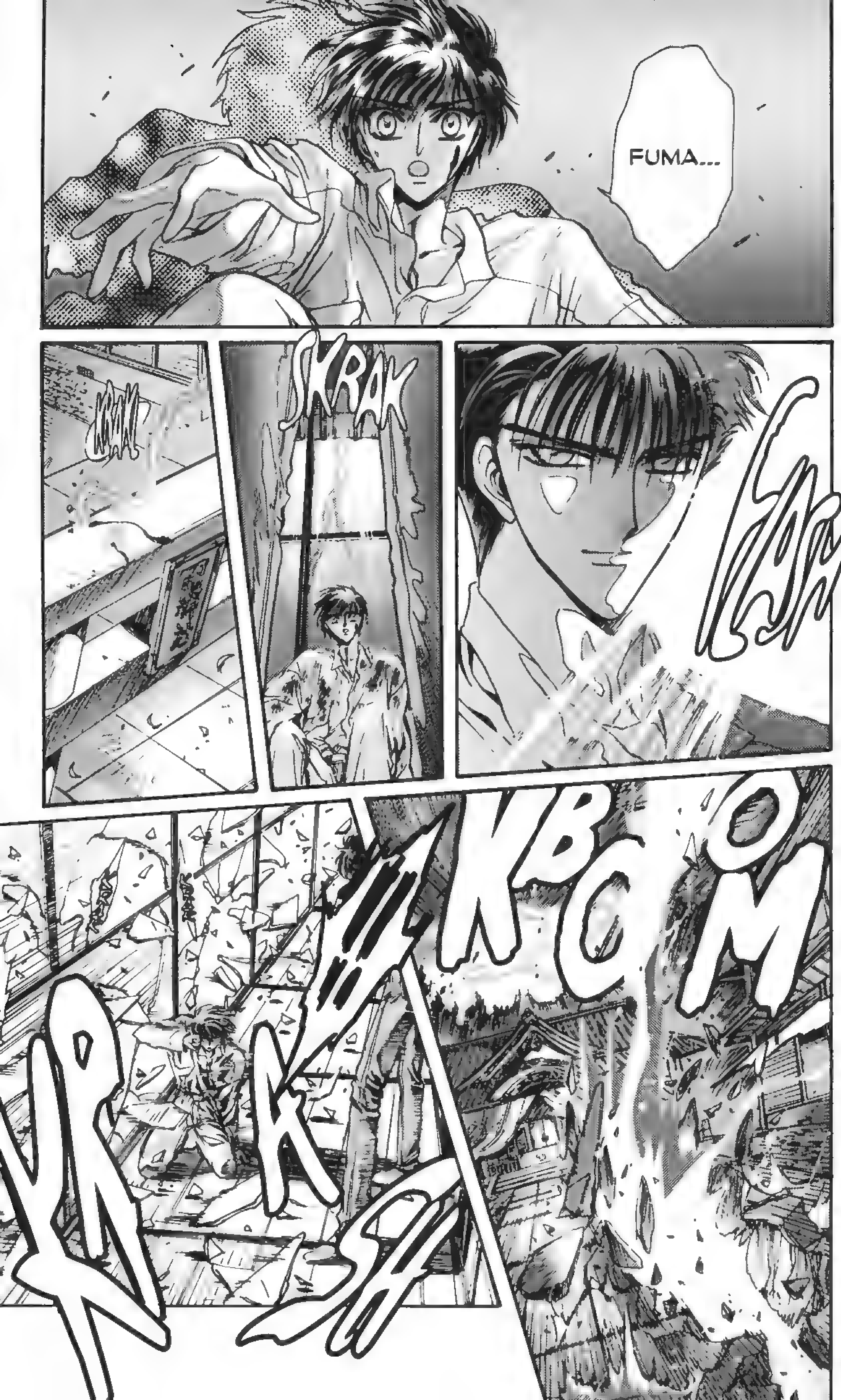


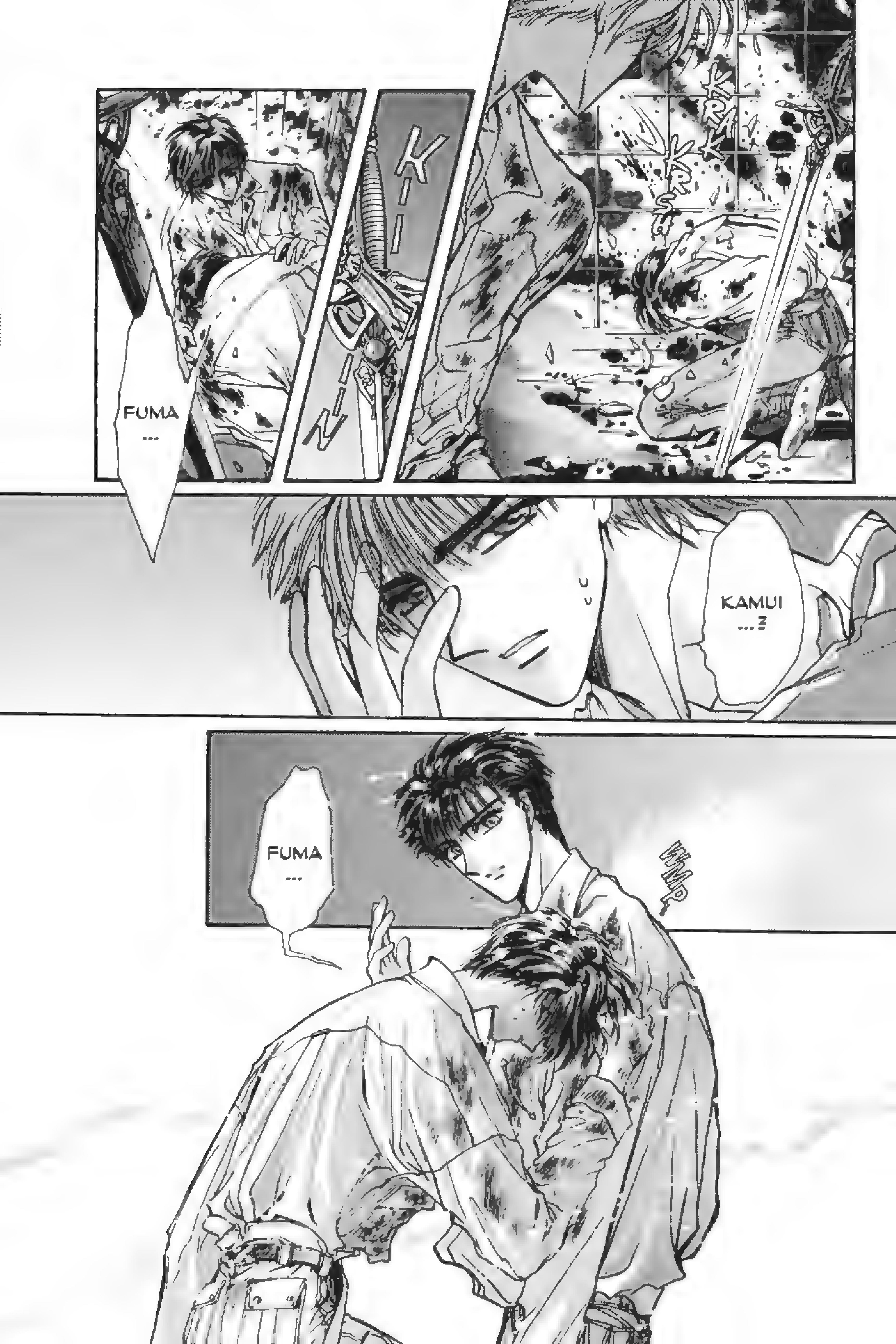

BA-THMP
VMMMM
THE TIME TO CHOOSE ...
...IS DRAWING NEAR.
THE KAMUI ...
BA-THUMP

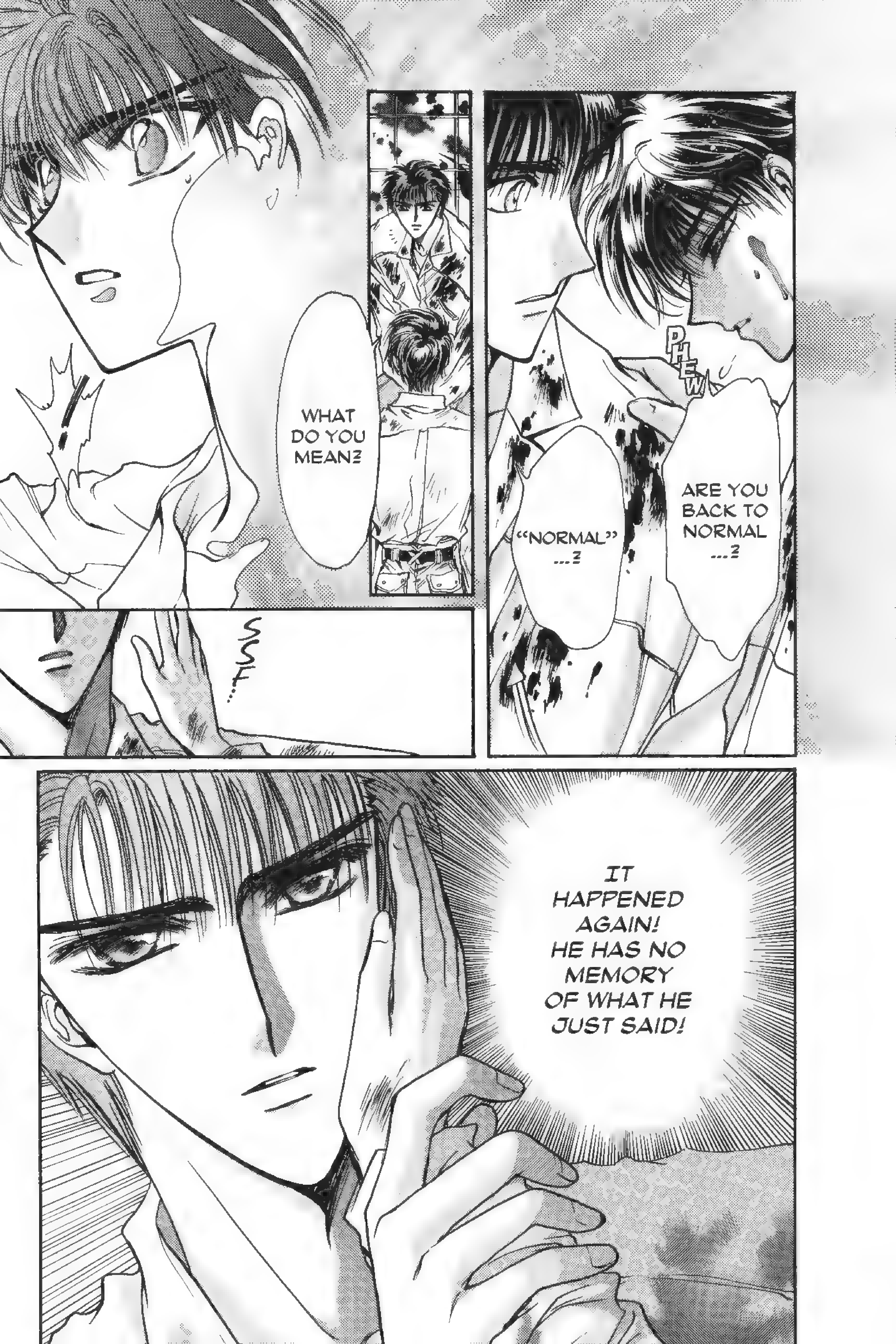

...MUST CHOOSE ...
FLASH
RMMBBL
...HIS OWN FATE.

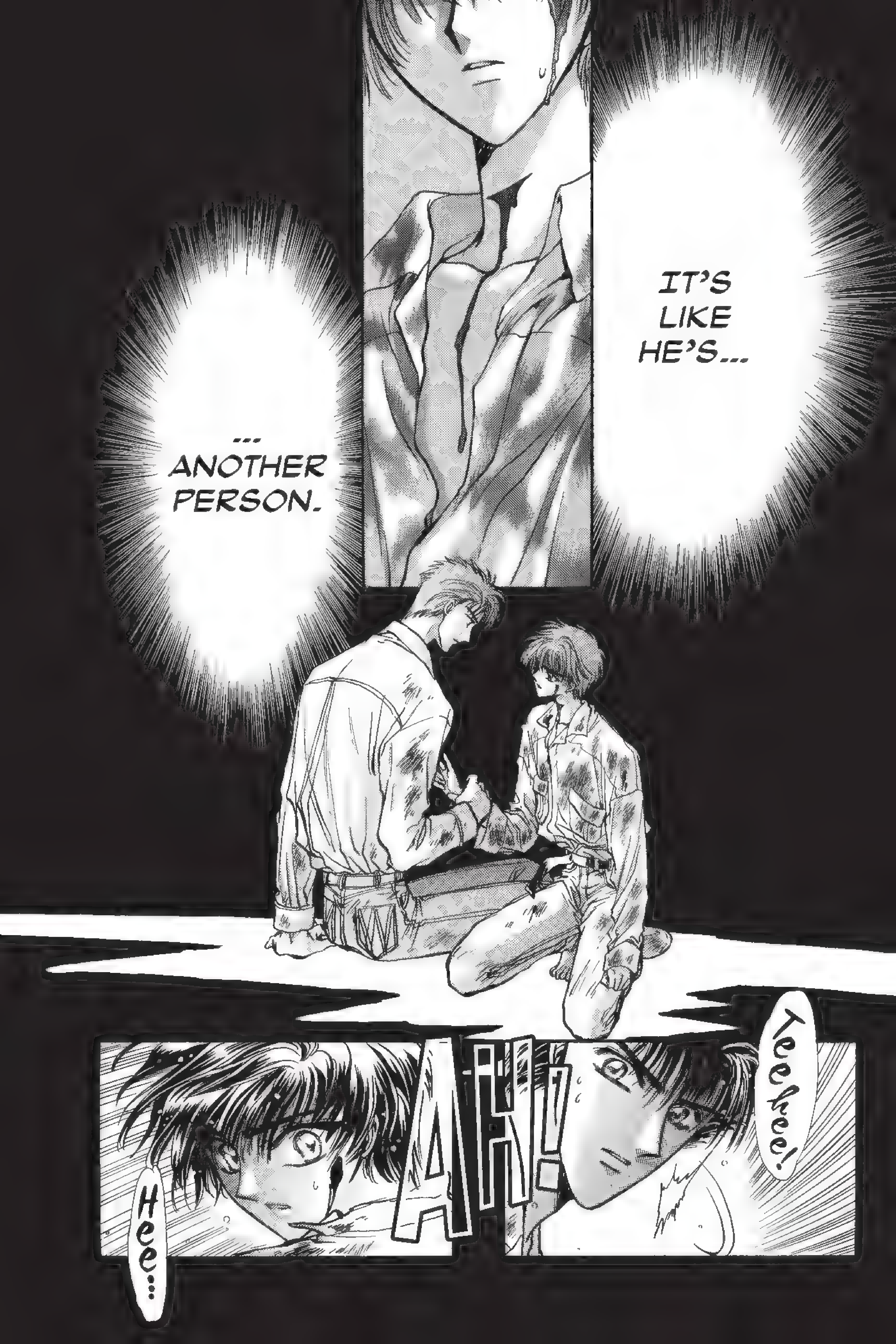

THE KAMUI ---
FUMA ---
...MUST CHOOSE HIS OWN FATE.
HE MUST DECIDE THE FATE OF THE WORLD.

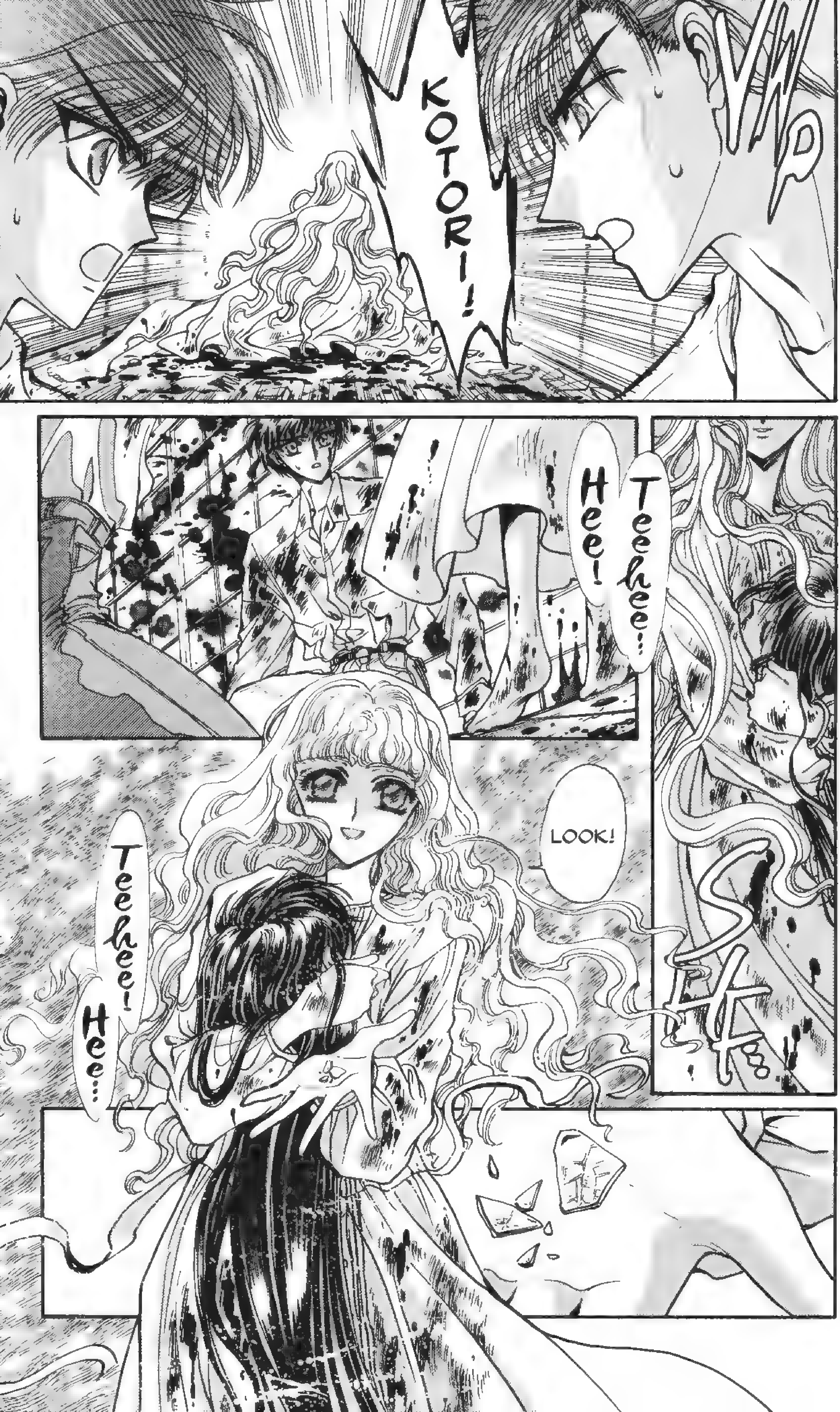

FUMA !!
THE KAMUI ---
Swip
ZSSH
VMMM
GRGRP
WHA
A

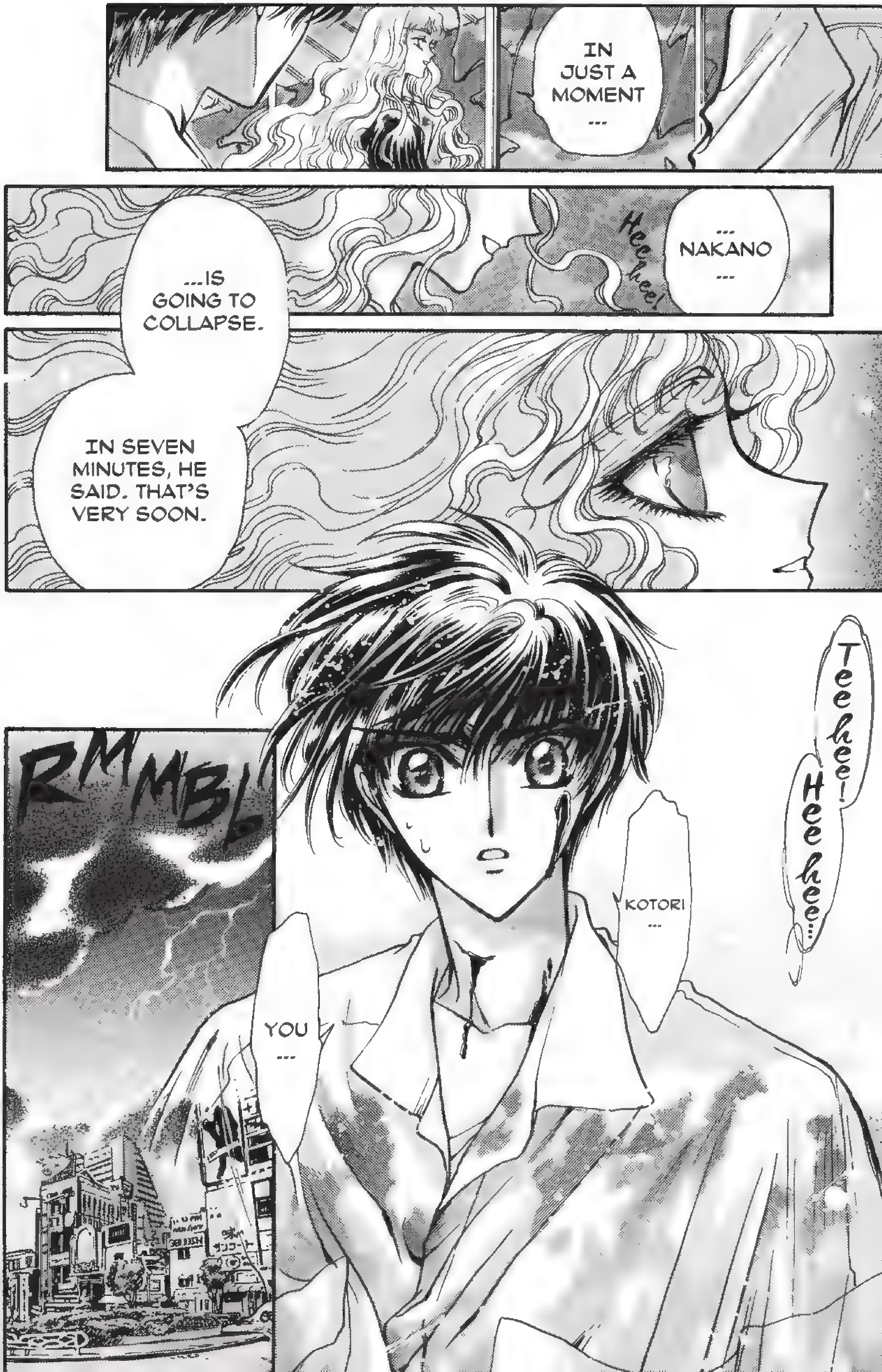

FUMA...
SKRAK
SLASH
KBOOM
RKSH

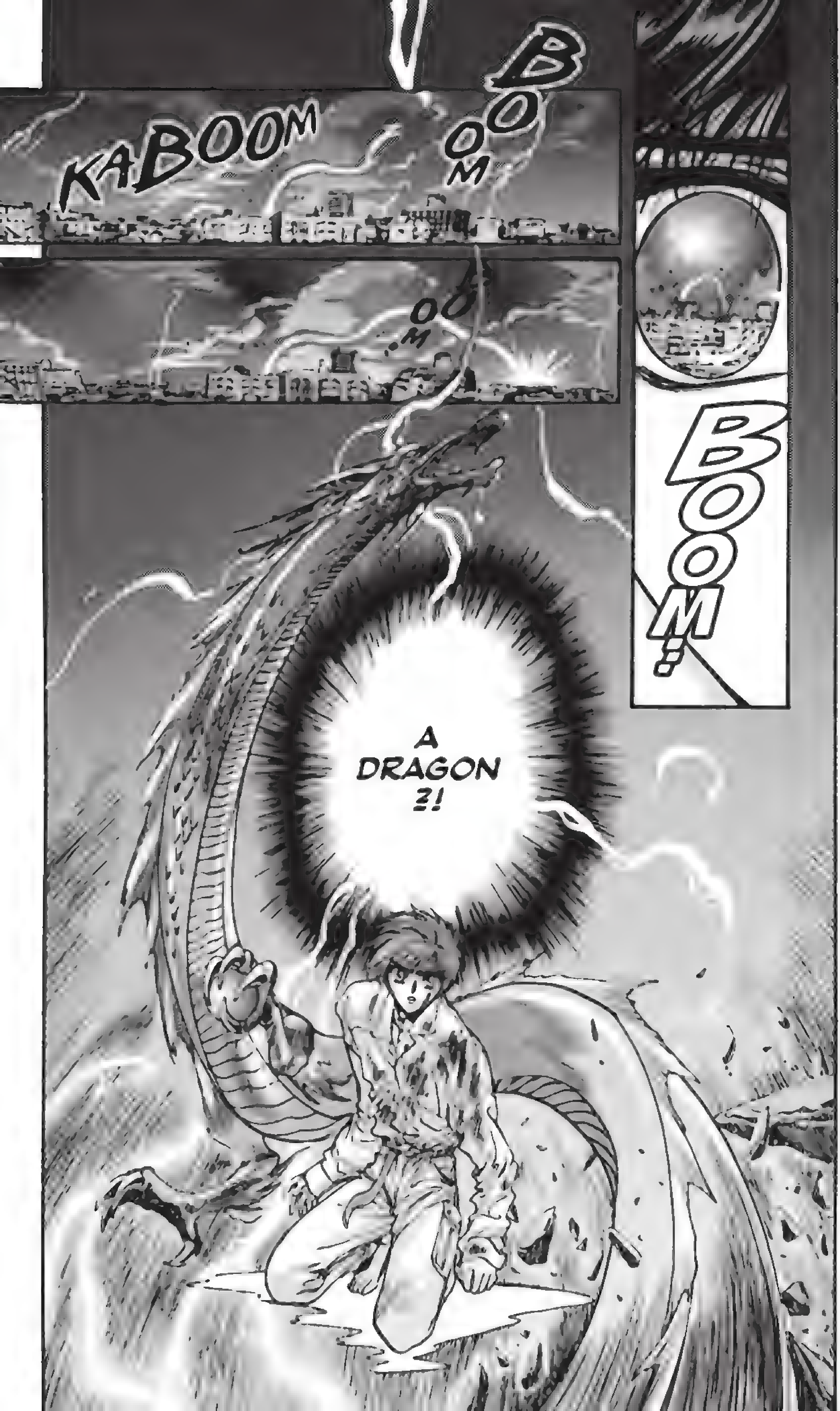

KRAK
KRASH
KIIIIN
FUMA ...
KAMUI ...?
WMP!
FUMA ...

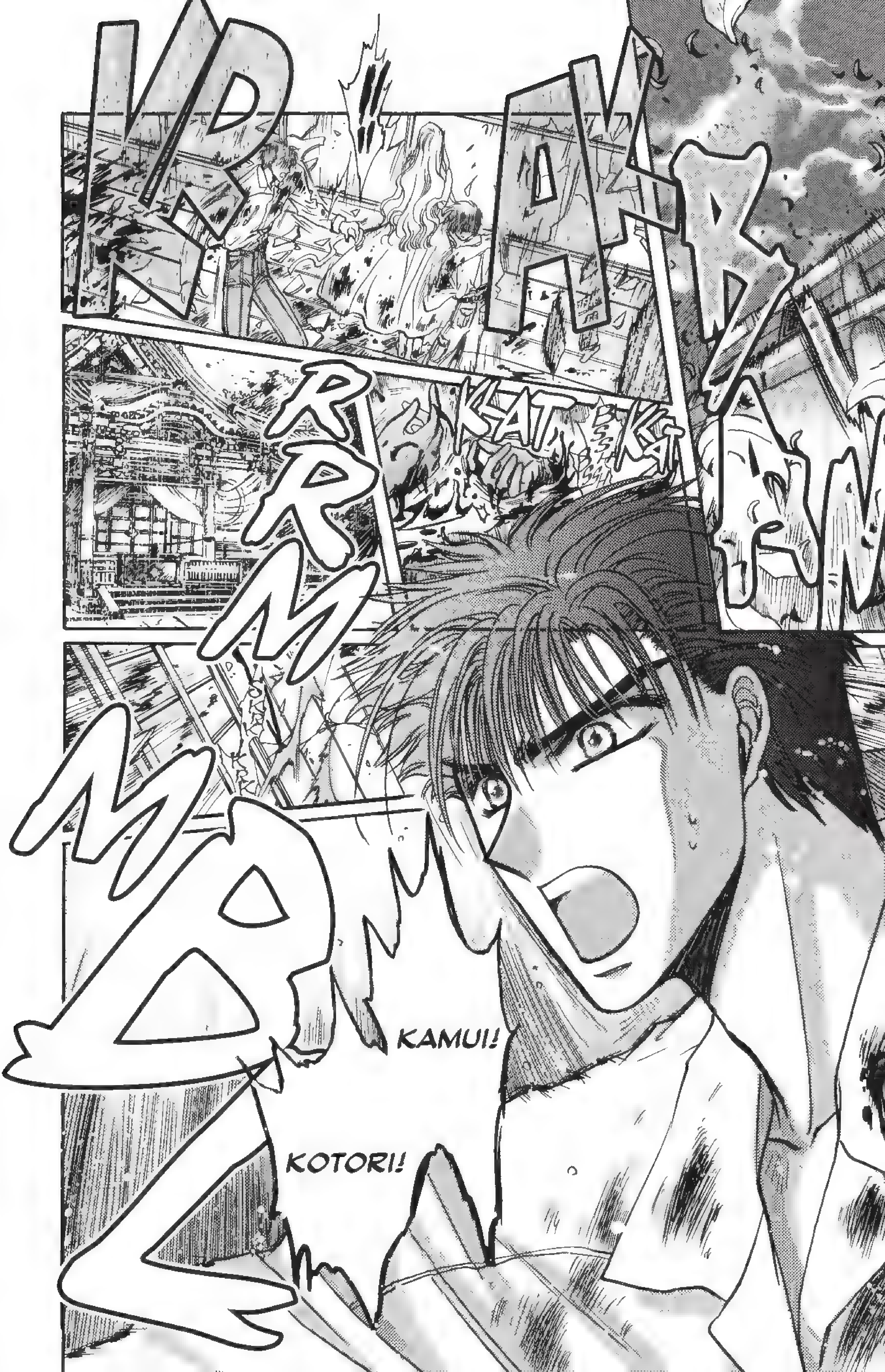

PHEW
ARE YOU BACK TO NORMAL ...?
"NORMAL" ...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SSF...
IT HAPPENED AGAIN! HE HAS NO MEMORY OF WHAT HE JUST SAID!

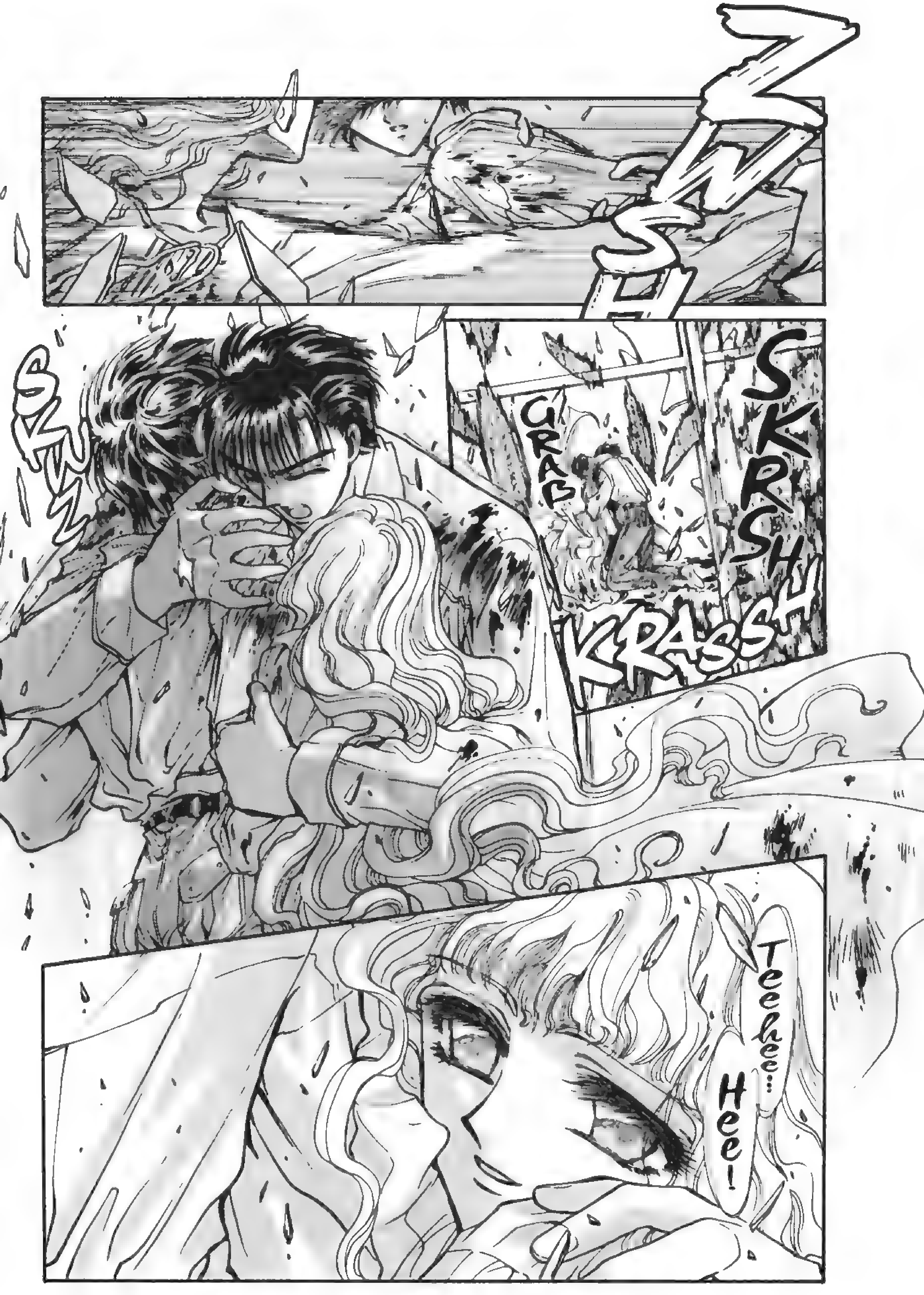

IT'S LIKE HE'S...
... ANOTHER PERSON.
Teetee!
AH!?
Hee...

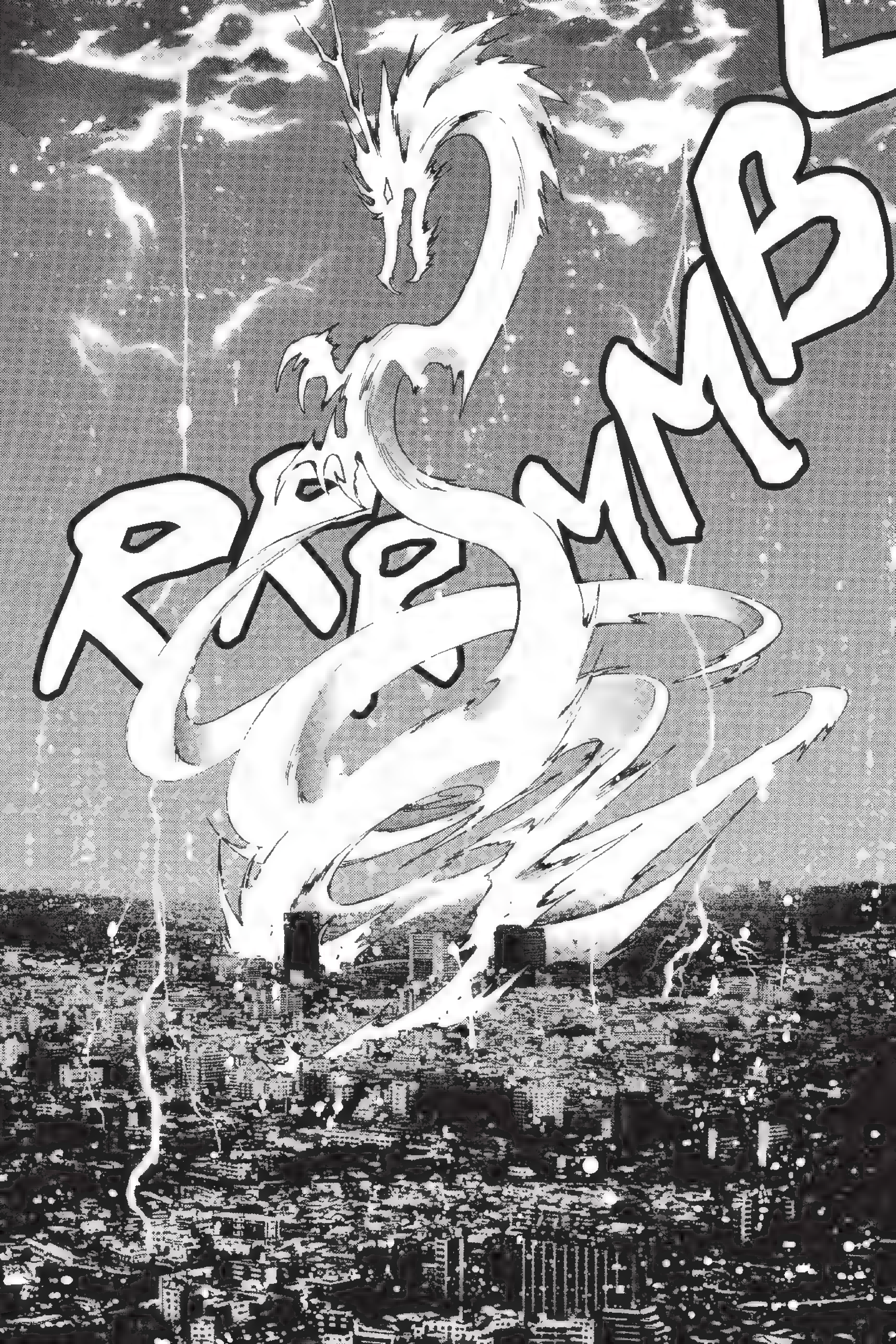

WHIP
KOTORI!!
Teehee... Hee!
...!
SHK...!!
LOOK!
Teehee! Hee...

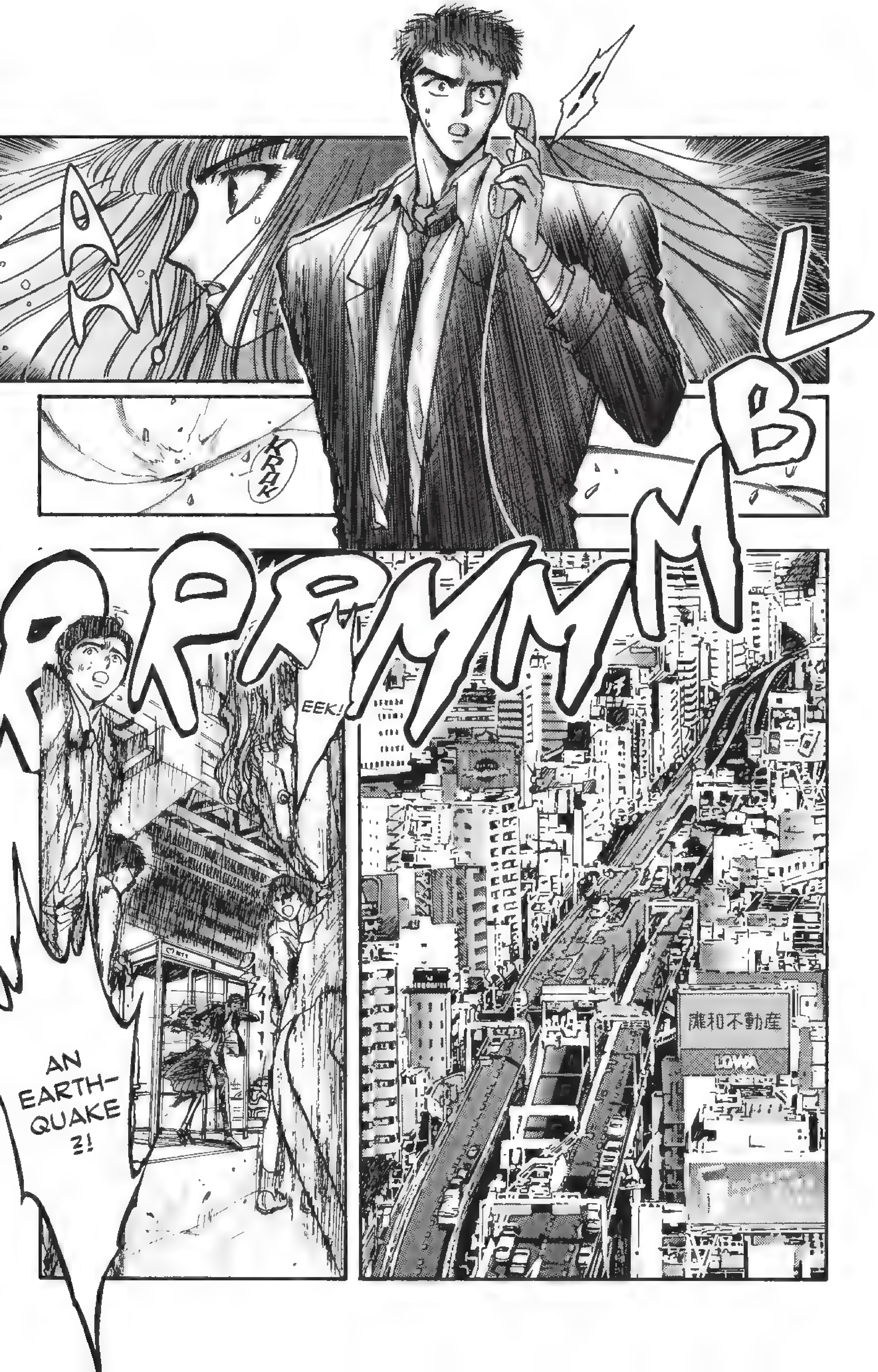

IN JUST A MOMENT ...
... NAKANO ...
Hee hee!
...IS GOING TO COLLAPSE.
IN SEVEN MINUTES, HE SAID. THAT'S VERY SOON.
Tee hee! Hee hee...
KOTORI ...
RMMBL
YOU ...

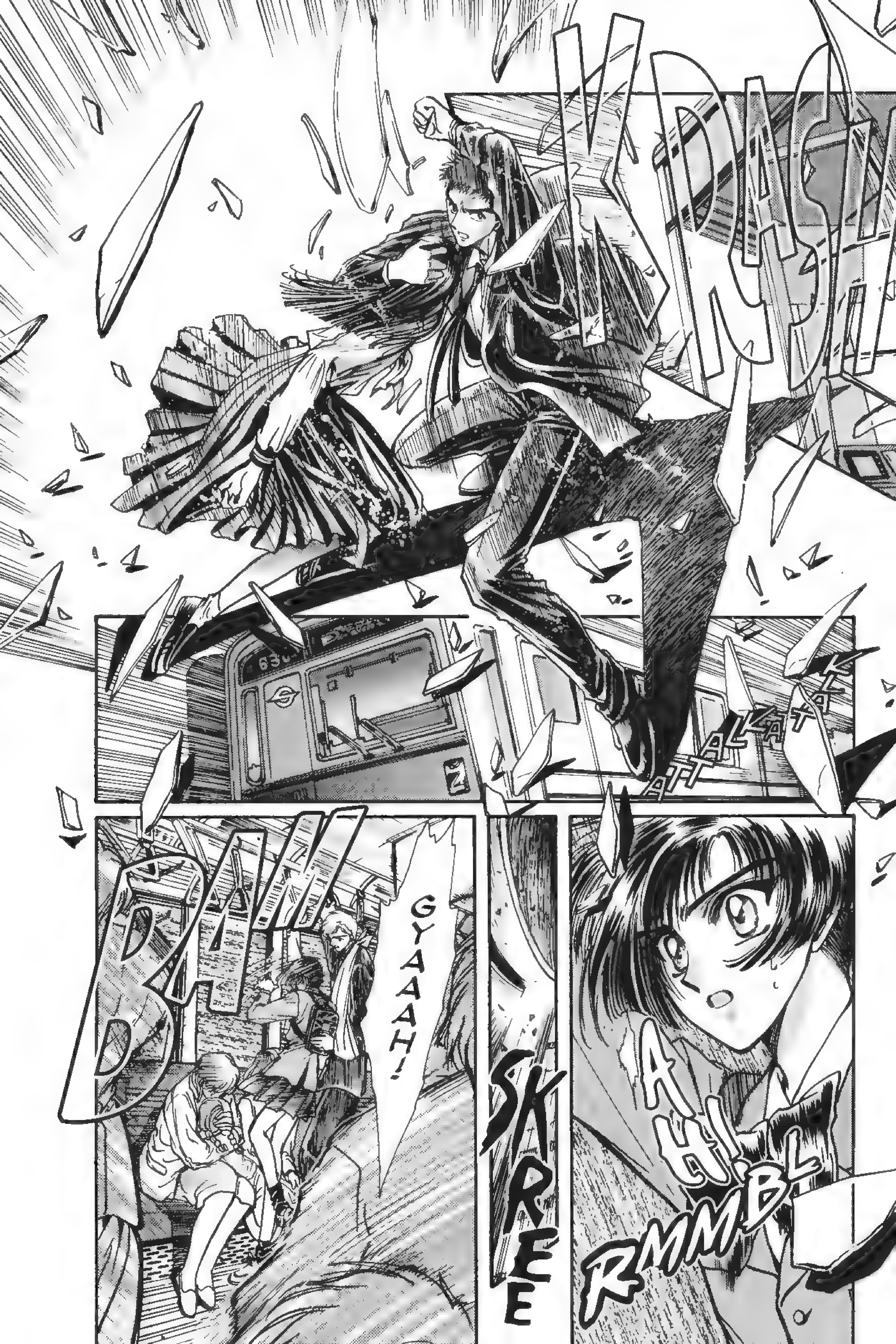

BOOOM
KABOOM
OOM
BOOOM!
A DRAGON?!

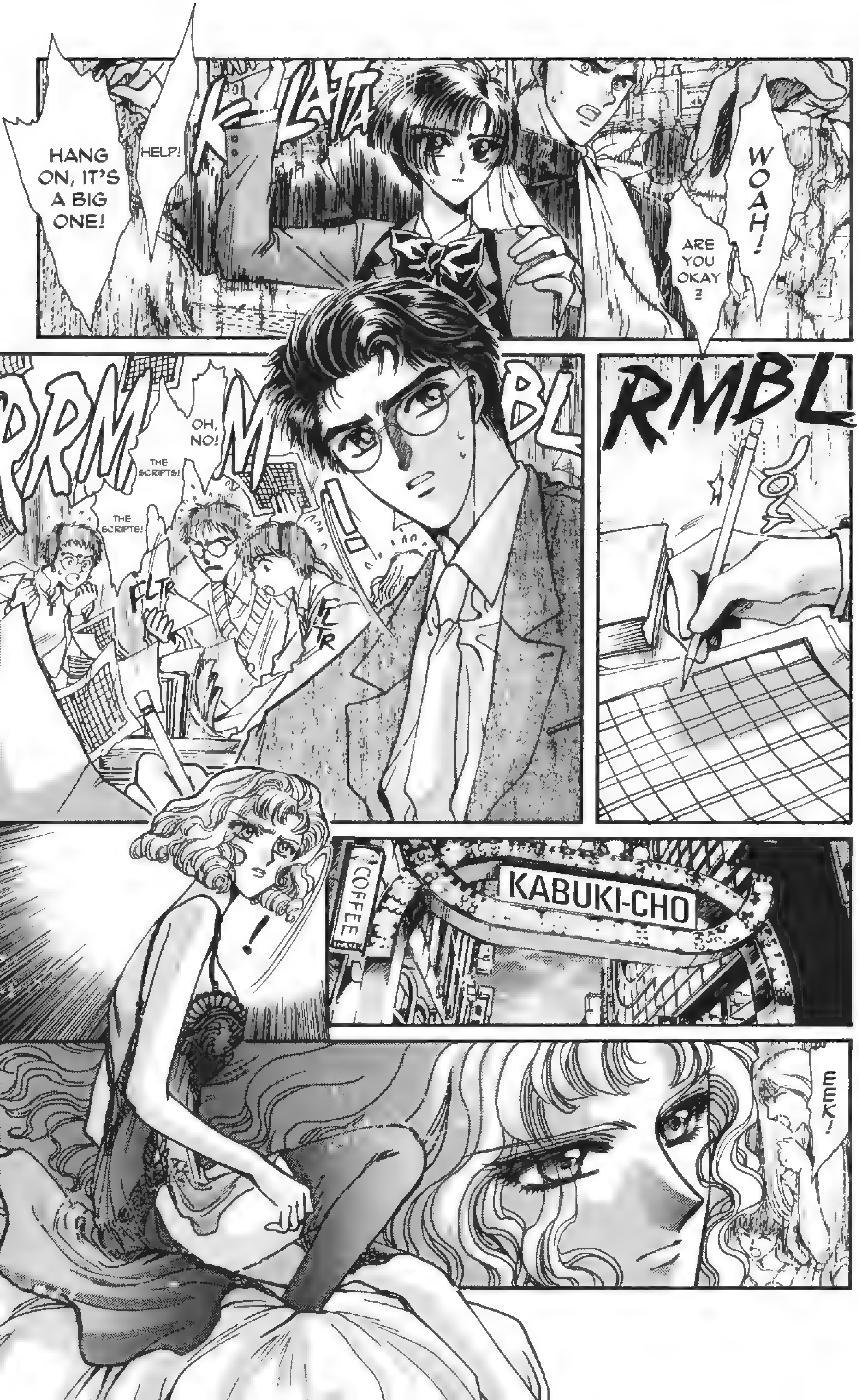

KATA KATA
RRM
KAMUI!
KOTORI!

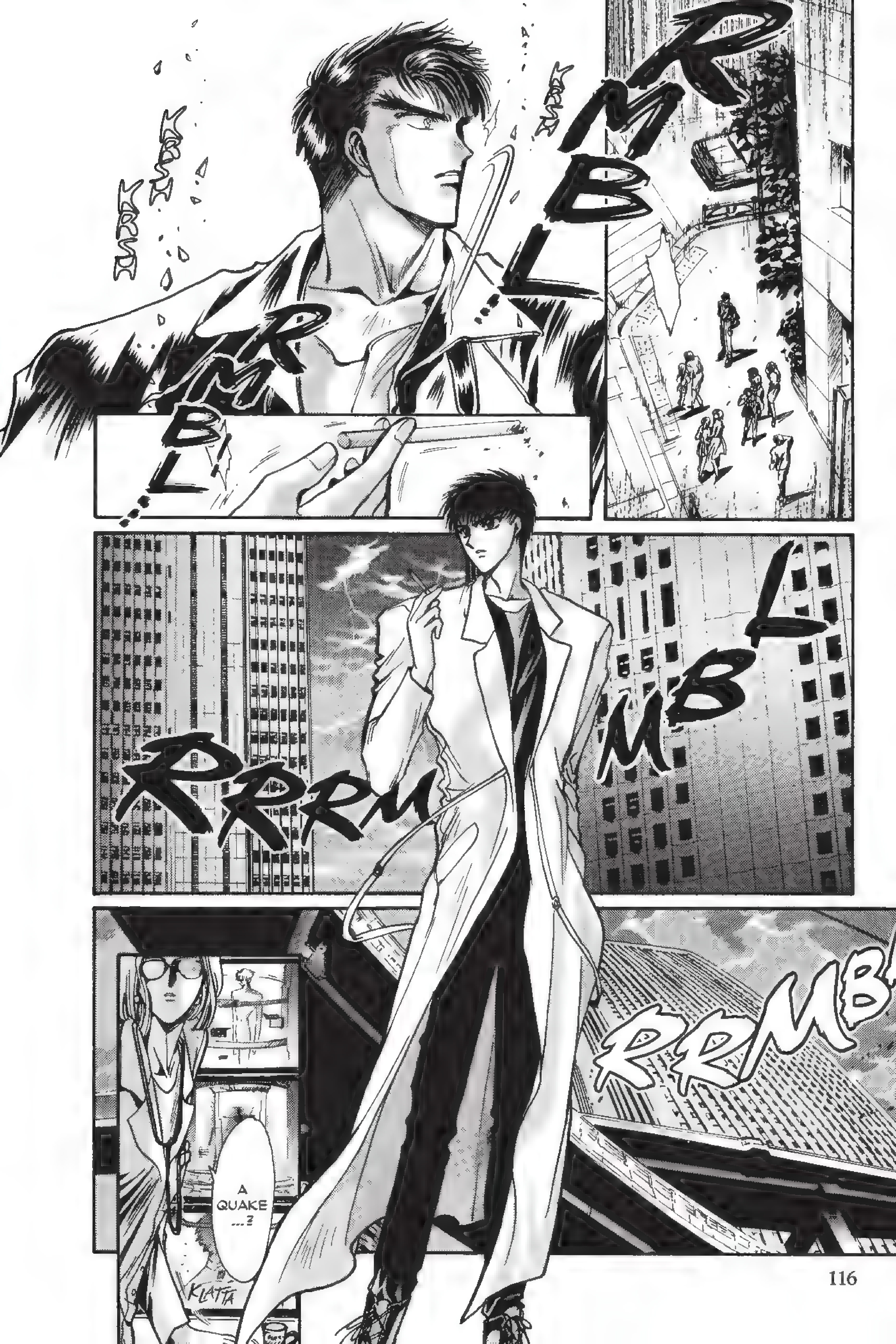

ZNSH
SKRSH
GRAB
KRASSH
SWWW
Teehee... Hee!

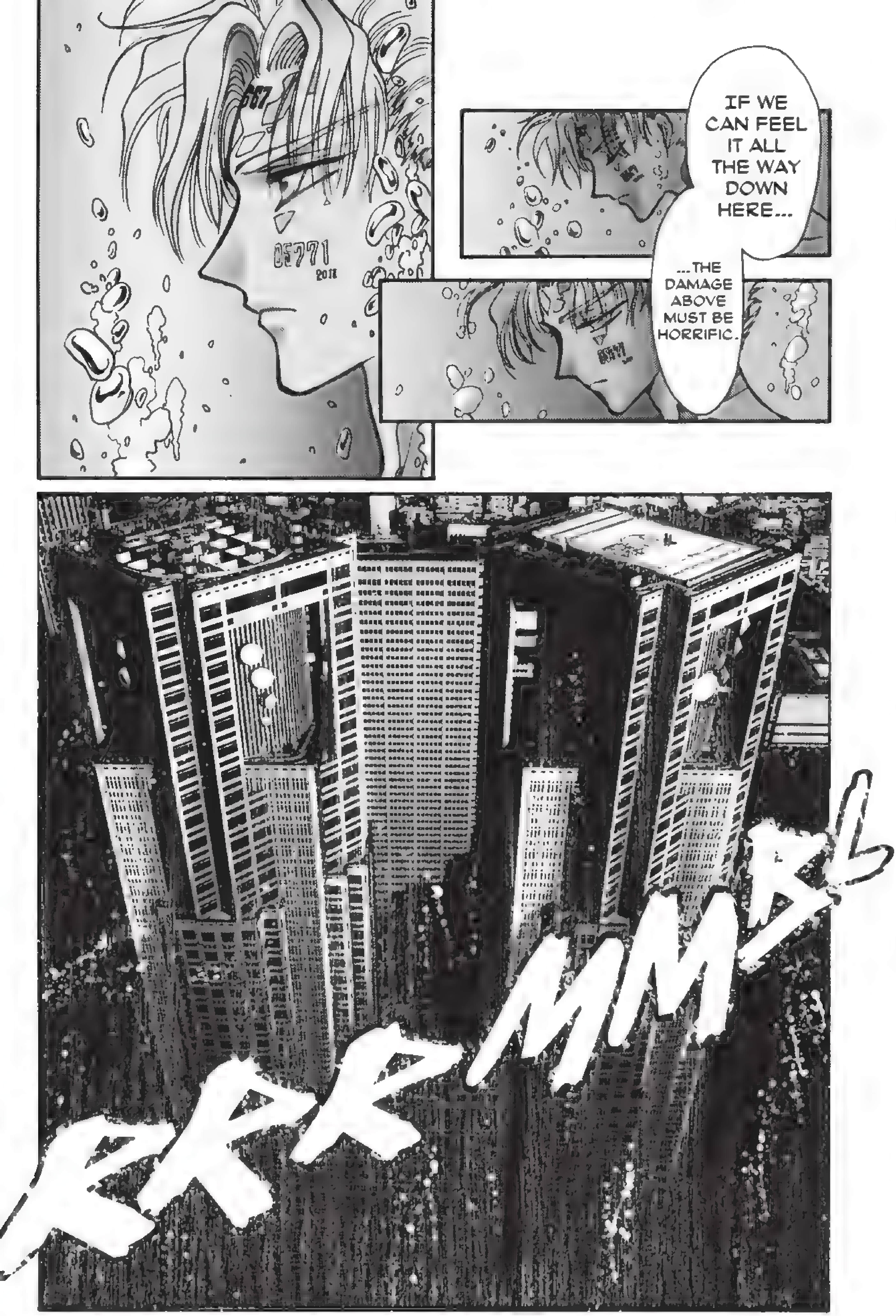

RRRUMMBL

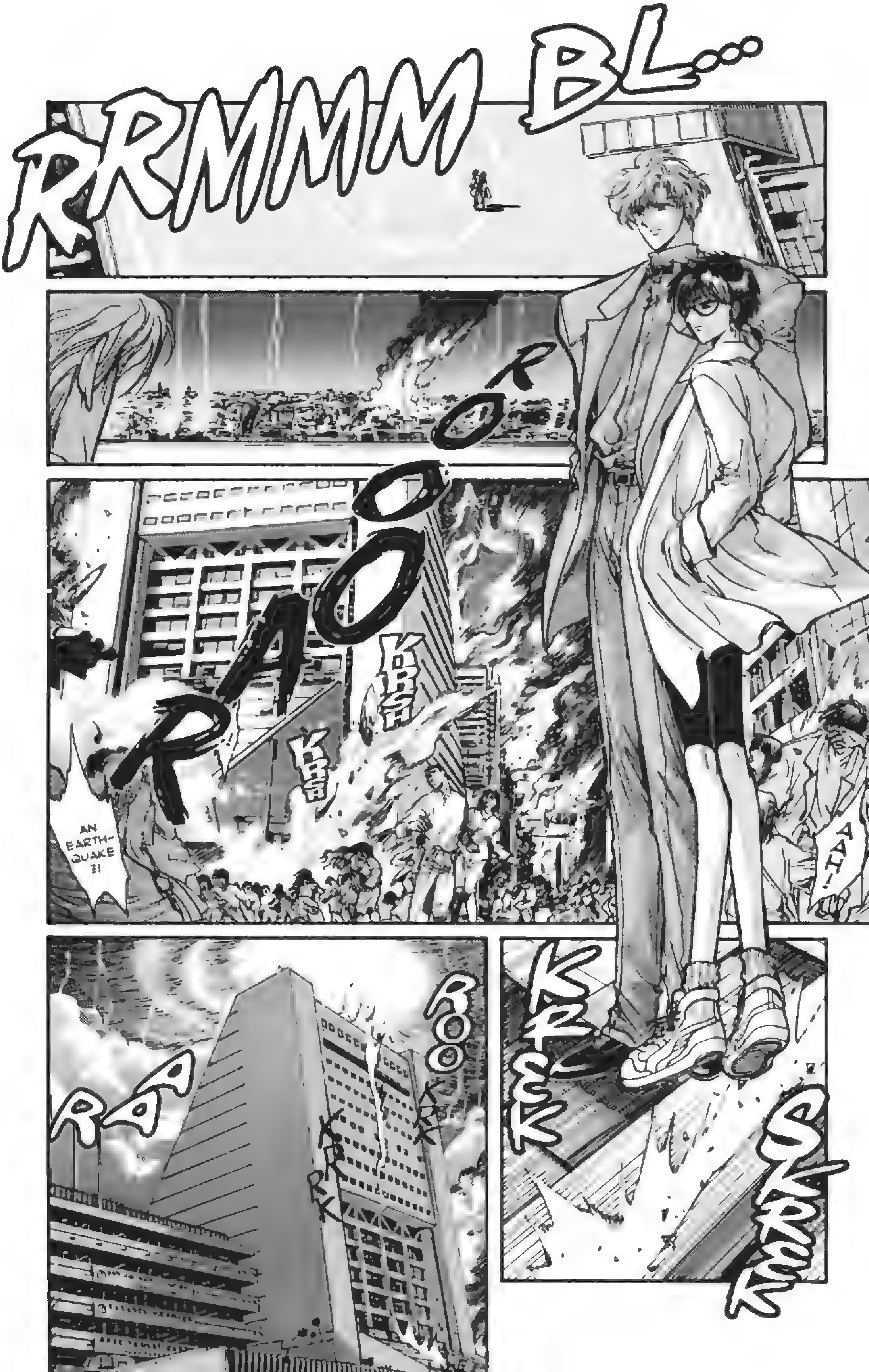

!
A...!
KRAAK
RRMMMBL
EEK!
AN EARTHQUAKE ?!
瀧和不動産
LOWA

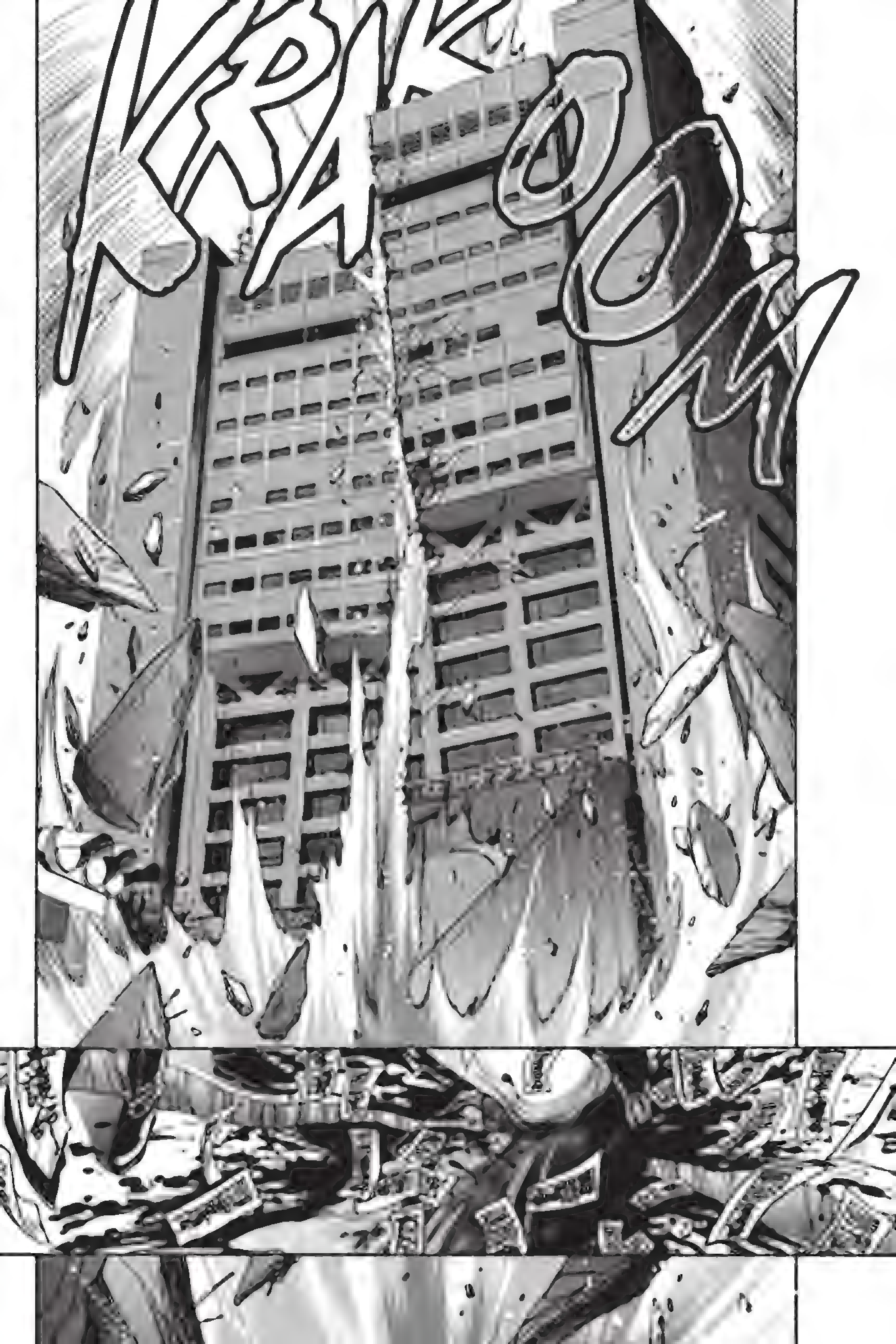

KDASH
KATAKATA
AH!
RMMBL
SKREE
GYAAAAH!
BADAM

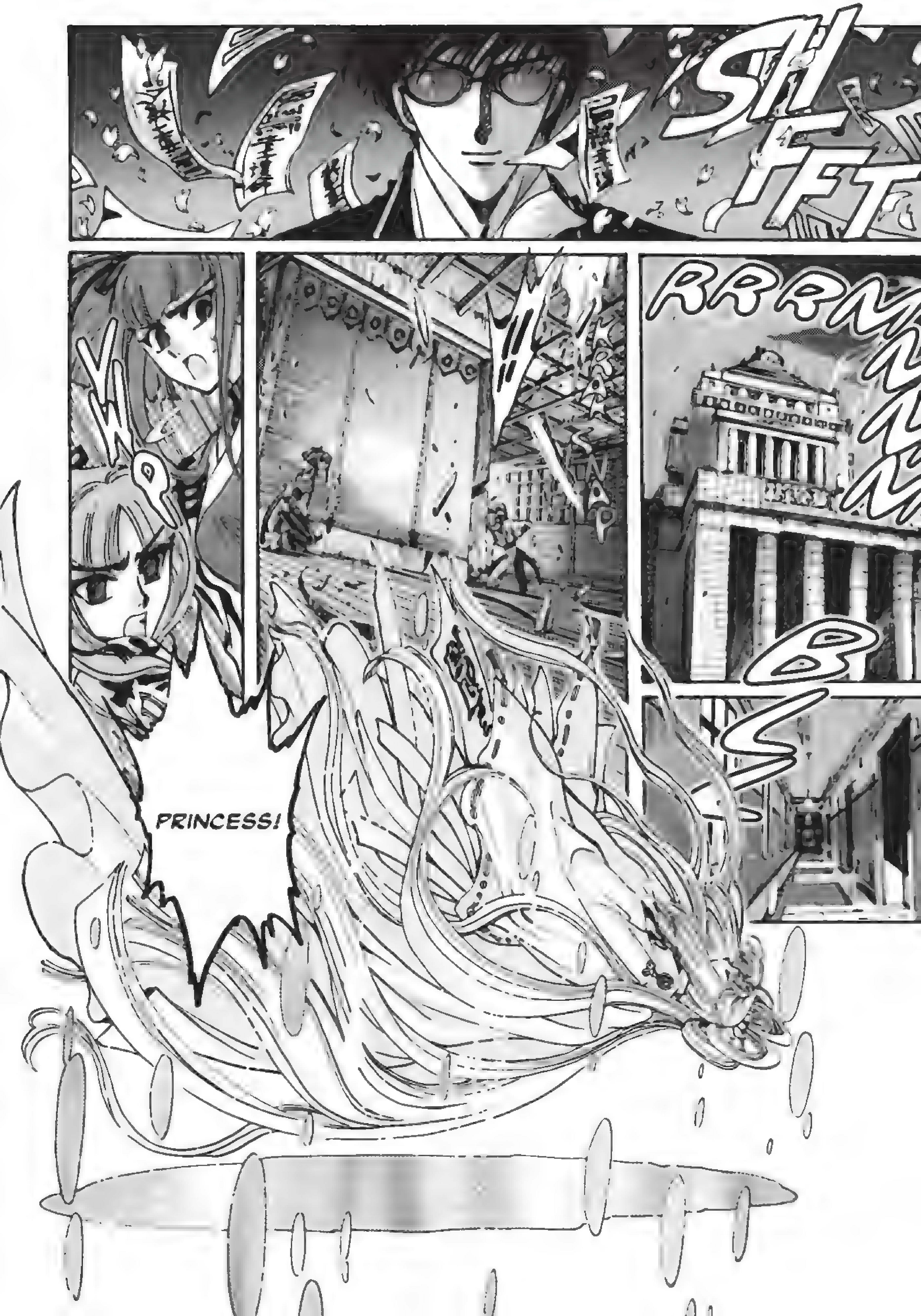

WOAH!
ARE YOU OKAY?
K-LATA
HELP!
HANG ON, IT'S A BIG ONE!
RMBL
DRM
M
BL
OH, NO!
THE SCRIPTS!
THE SCRIPTS!
FLTR
FLTR
KABUKI-CHO
COFFEE
EEK!


RMBL
KRSH
KRSH KRSH
RMBL...
RRRMMBL
RRMB!
A QUAKE ...?
KLATTA

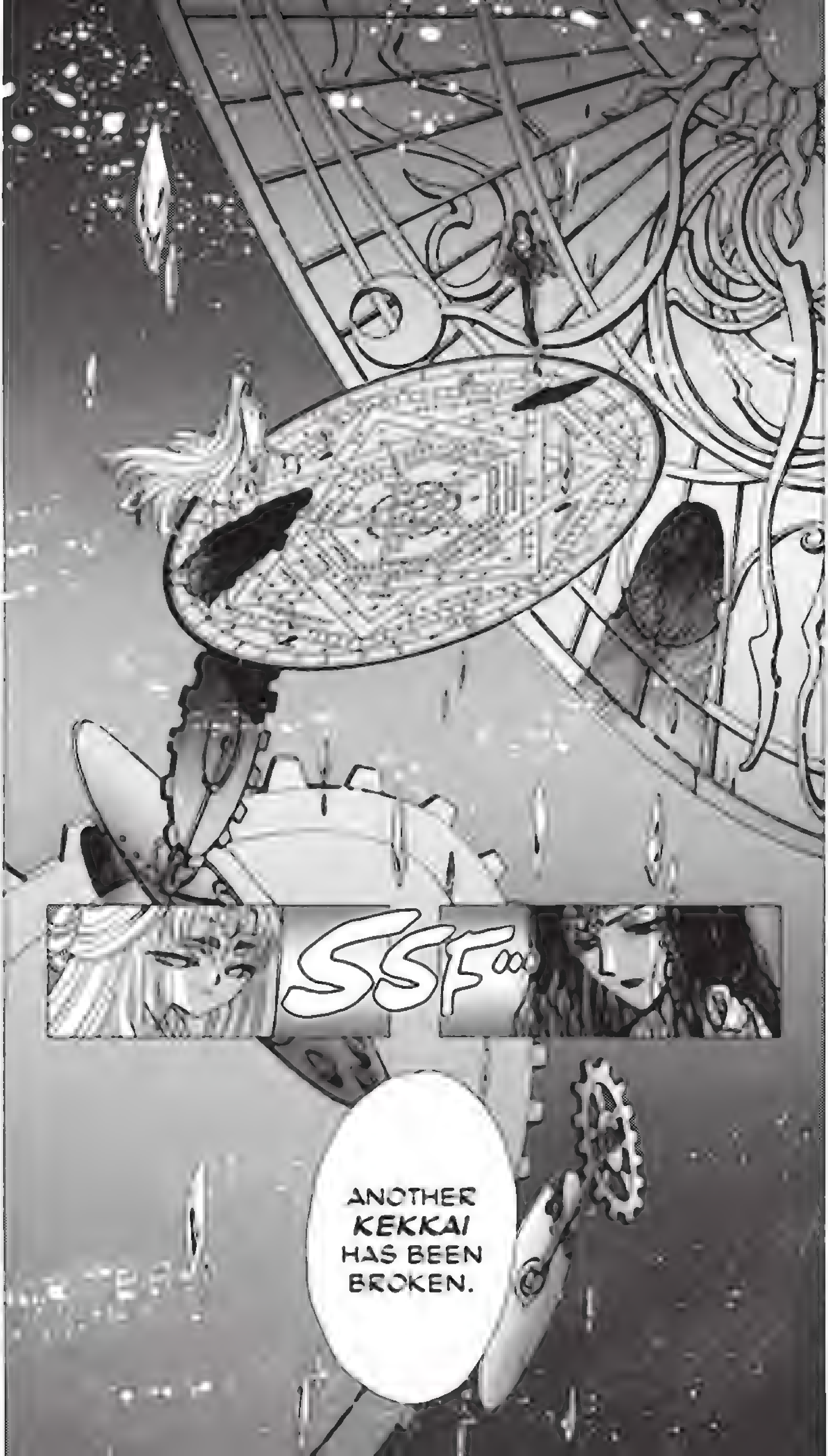

IF WE CAN FEEL IT ALL THE WAY DOWN HERE...
...THE DAMAGE ABOVE MUST BE HORRIFIC.
RRRMMB

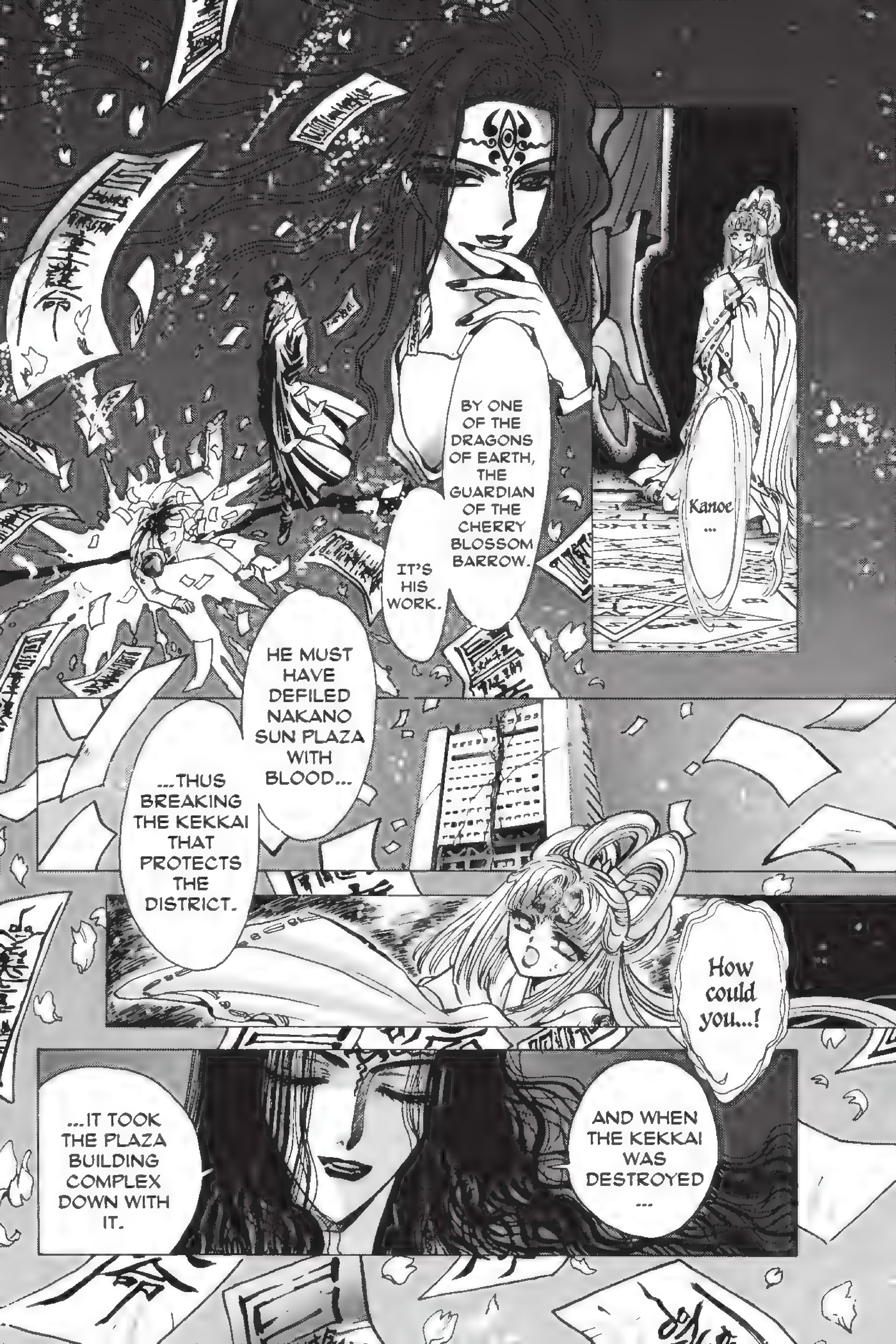

RRMMM BL...
RAOOOR
AAH!
AN EARTHQUAKE?!
KREK
SKRAK
ROOO
KRK
KRRK
RAA

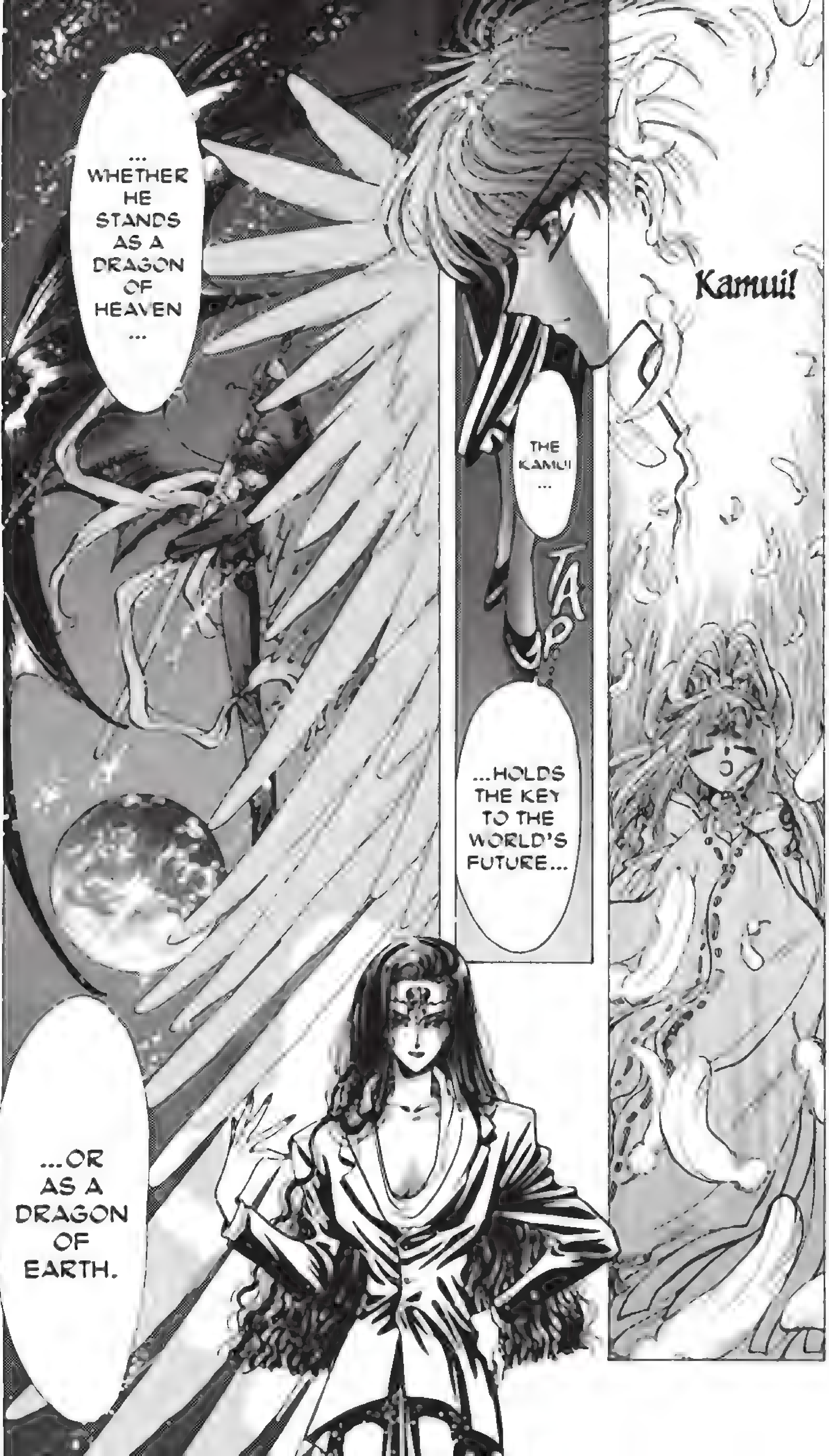

KRAKOOM

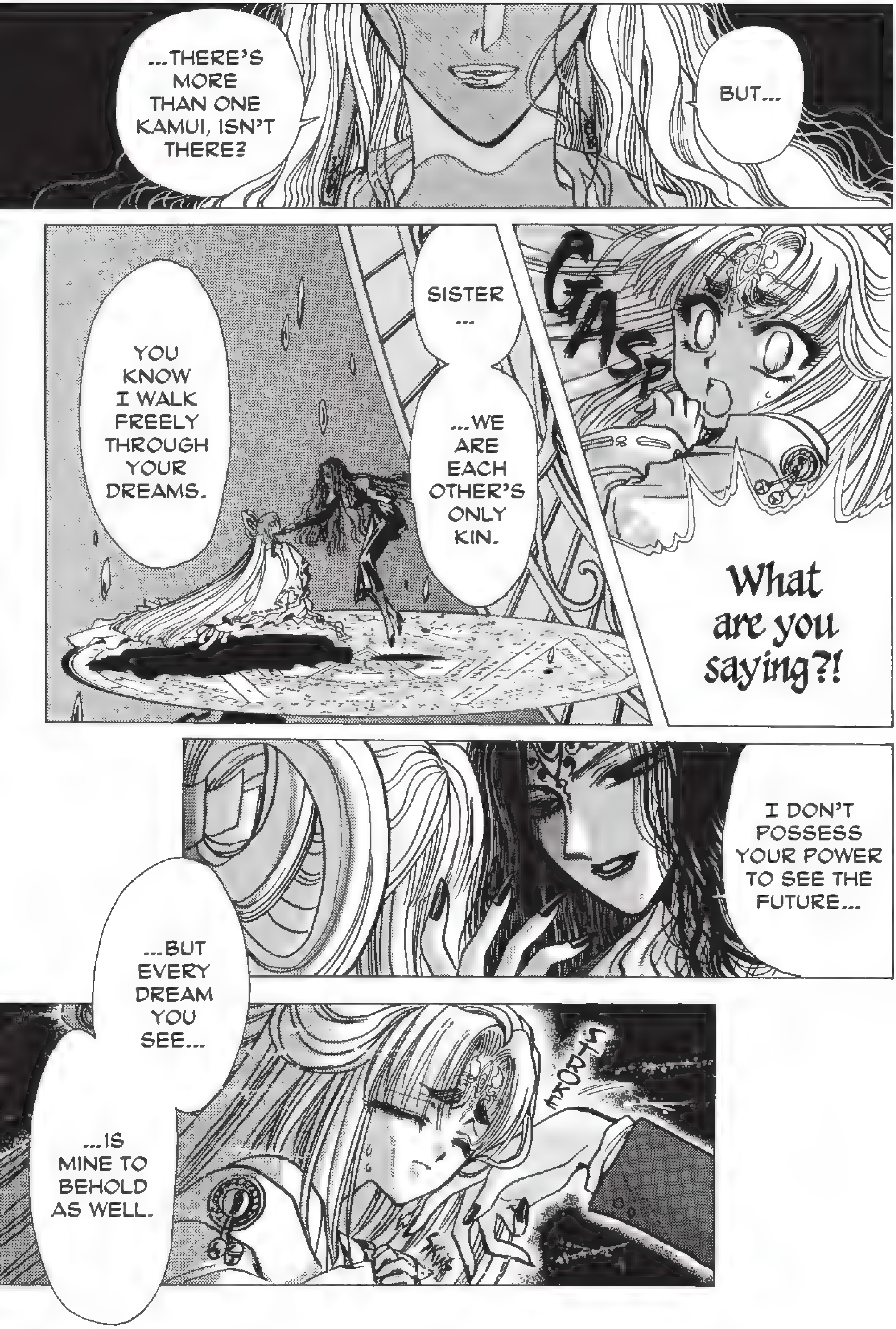

SHIFT
RRRMMMMBS
PRINCESS!

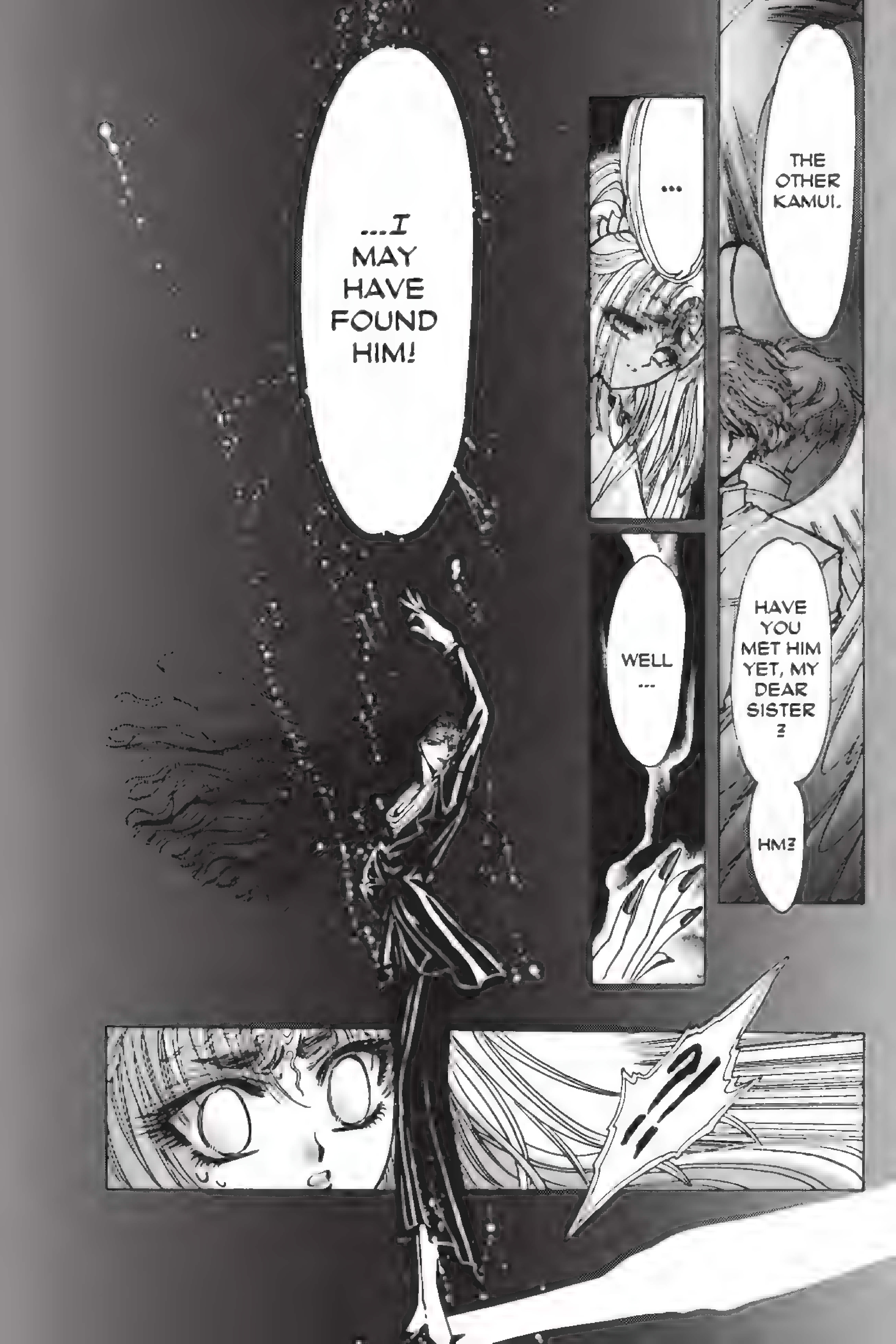
RMB
L RR
MM
B
LL

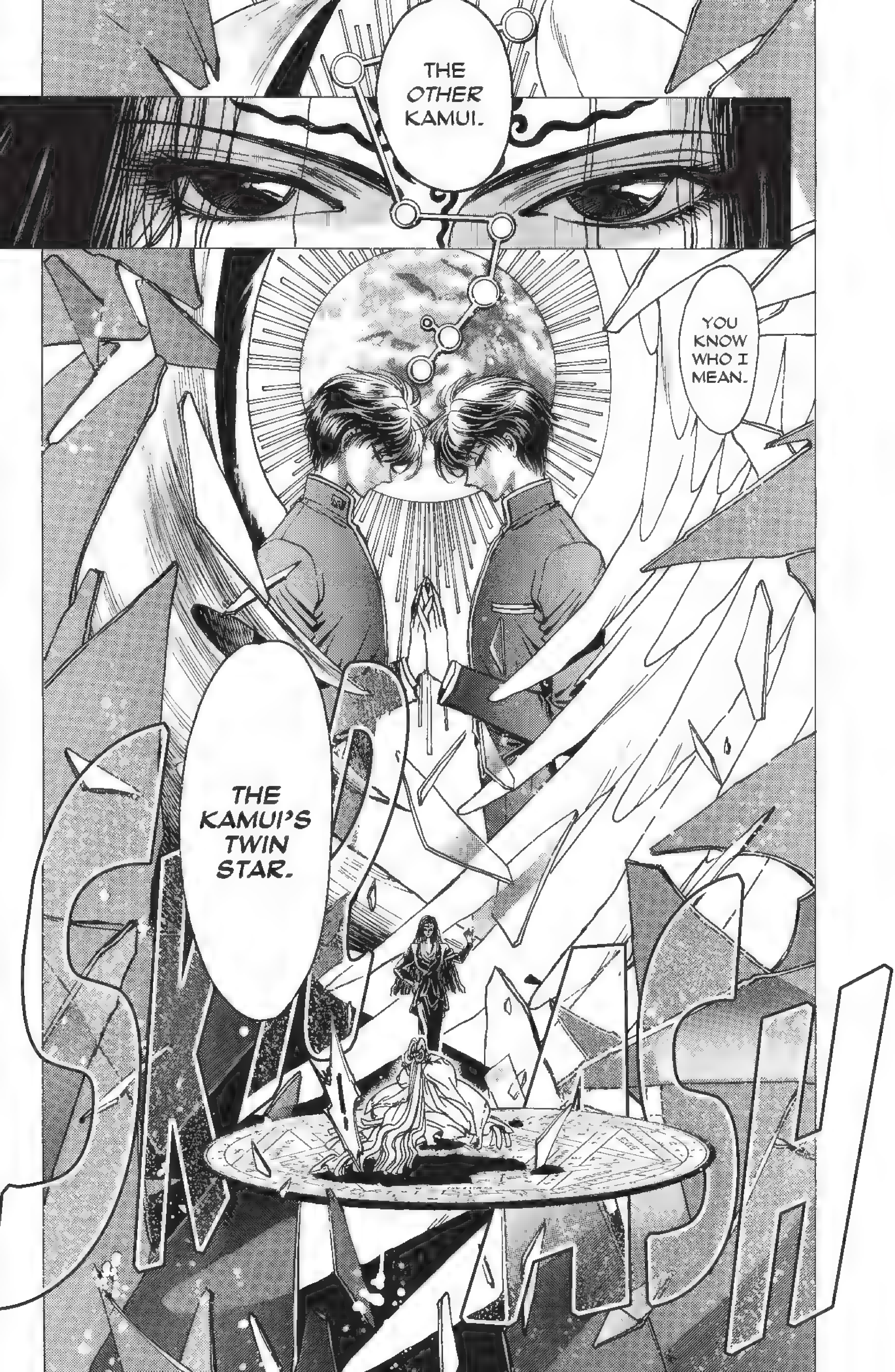

SSF..
ANOTHER *KEKKAI* HAS BEEN BROKEN.

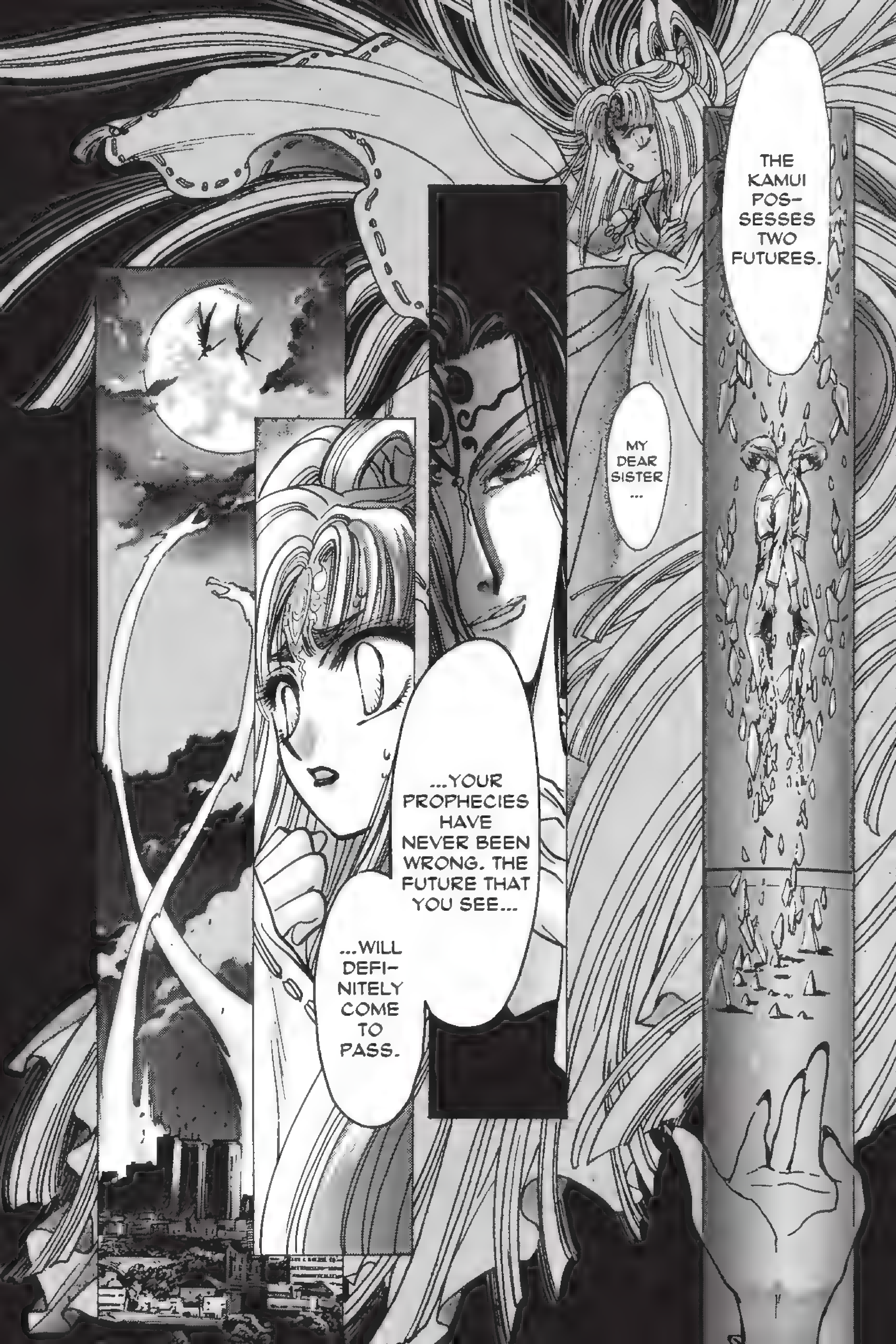

Kanoe...
BY ONE OF THE DRAGONS OF EARTH, THE GUARDIAN OF THE CHERRY BLOSSOM BARROW.
IT'S HIS WORK.
HE MUST HAVE DEFILED NAKANO SUN PLAZA WITH BLOOD...
...THUS BREAKING THE KEKKAI THAT PROTECTS THE DISTRICT.
How could you...!
AND WHEN THE KEKKAI WAS DESTROYED...
...IT TOOK THE PLAZA BUILDING COMPLEX DOWN WITH IT.

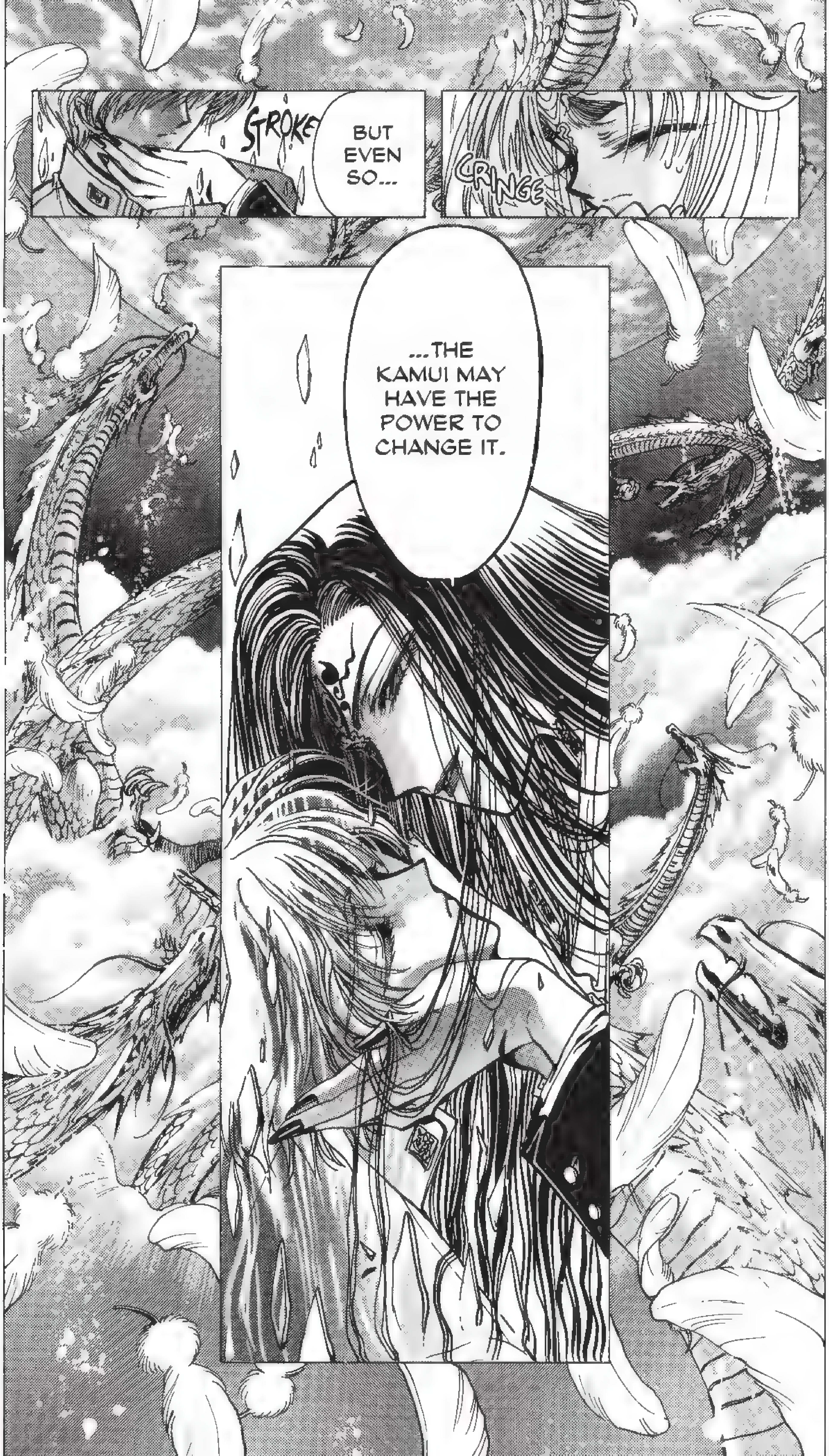

Kamui!
... WHETHER HE STANDS AS A DRAGON OF HEAVEN ...
THE KAMUI ...
TAP
...HOLDS THE KEY TO THE WORLD'S FUTURE...
...OR AS A DRAGON OF EARTH.

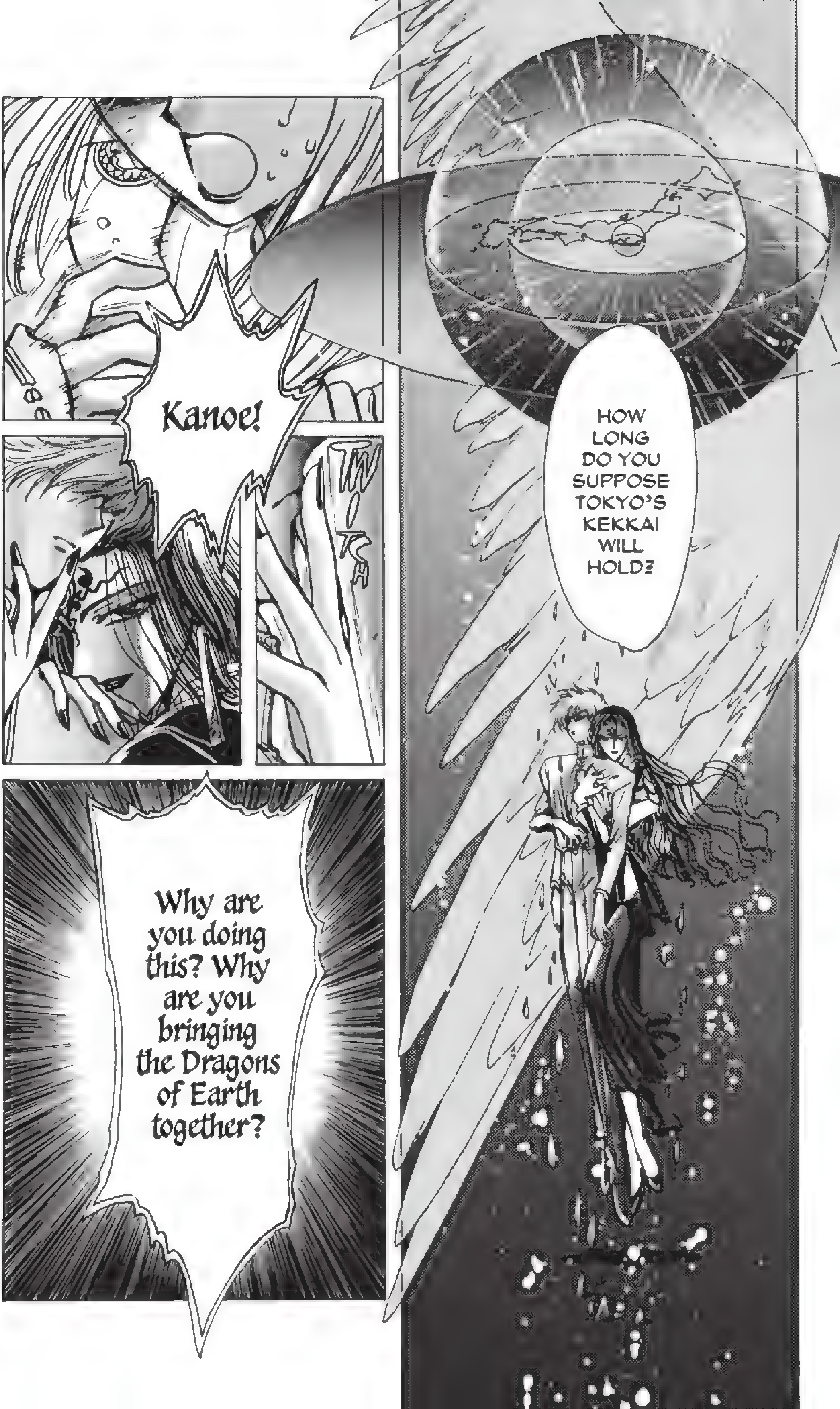

BUT...
...THERE'S MORE THAN ONE KAMUI, ISN'T THERE?
GASP
What are you saying?!
SISTER...
...WE ARE EACH OTHER'S ONLY KIN.
YOU KNOW I WALK FREELY THROUGH YOUR DREAMS.
I DON'T POSSESS YOUR POWER TO SEE THE FUTURE...
...BUT EVERY DREAM YOU SEE...
STROKE
...IS MINE TO BEHOLD AS WELL.

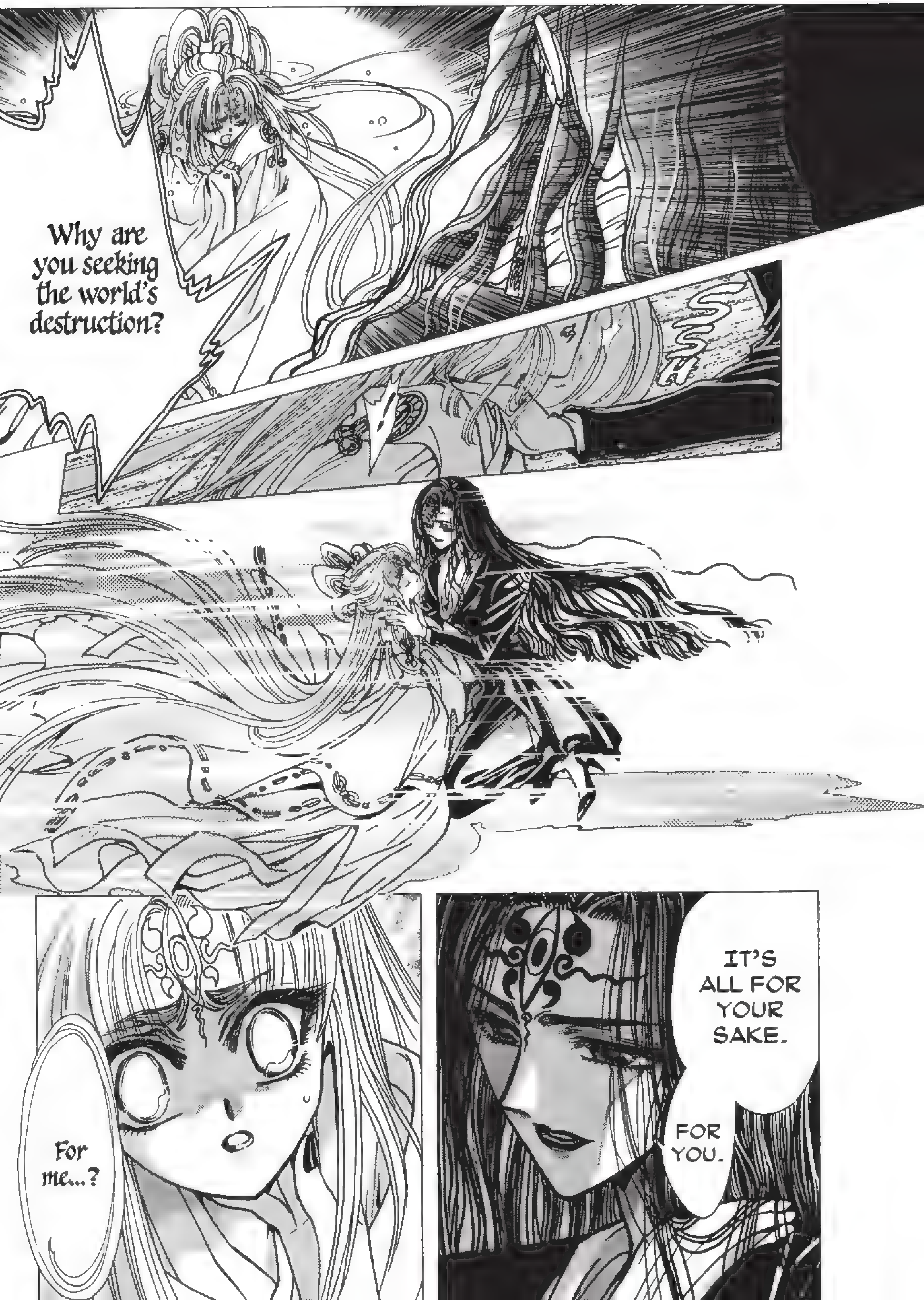

THE OTHER KAMUI.
...
HAVE YOU MET HIM YET, MY DEAR SISTER?
HM?
WELL ...
...I MAY HAVE FOUND HIM!

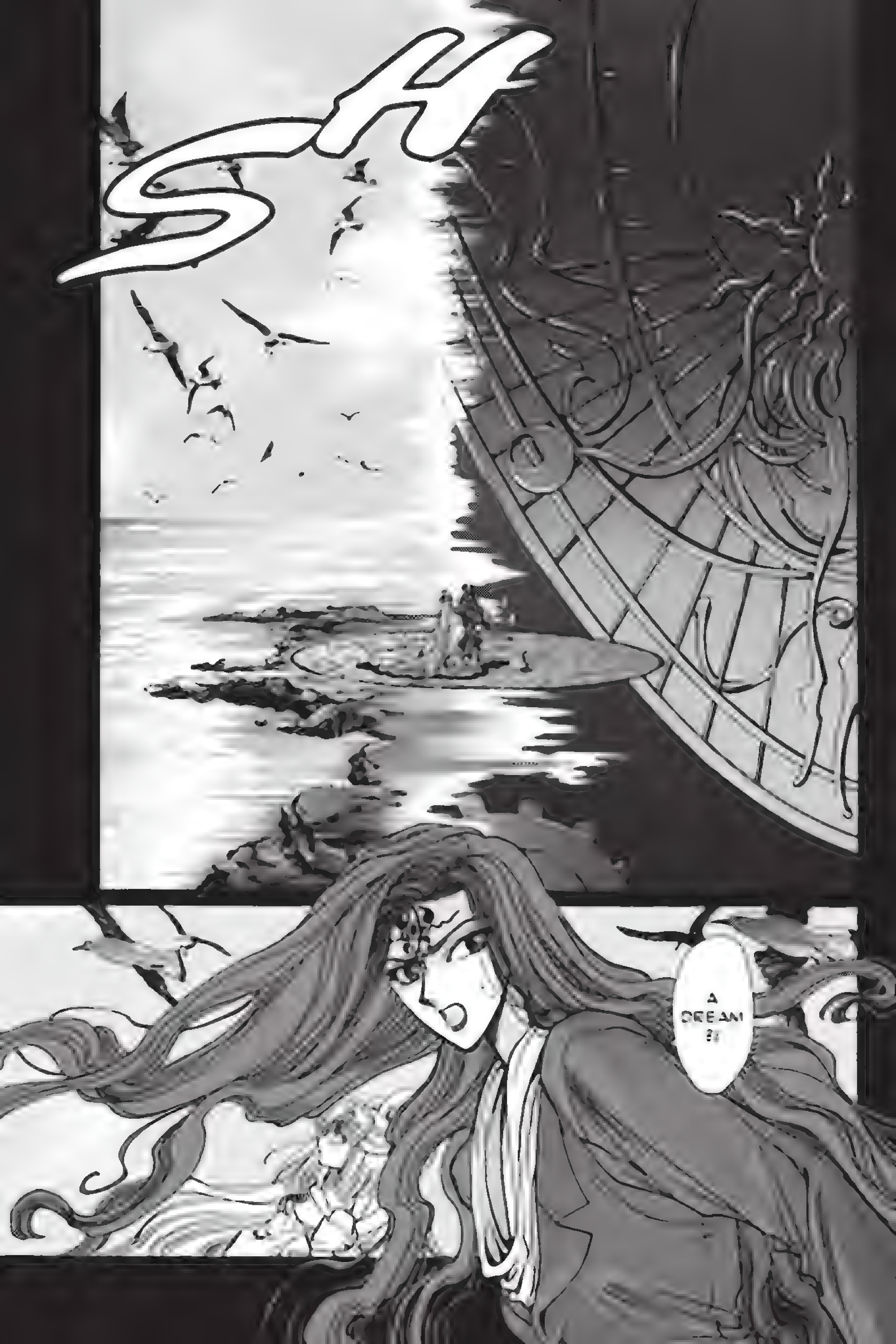

THE *OTHER* KAMUI.
YOU KNOW WHO I MEAN.
THE KAMUI'S TWIN STAR.
SMASH

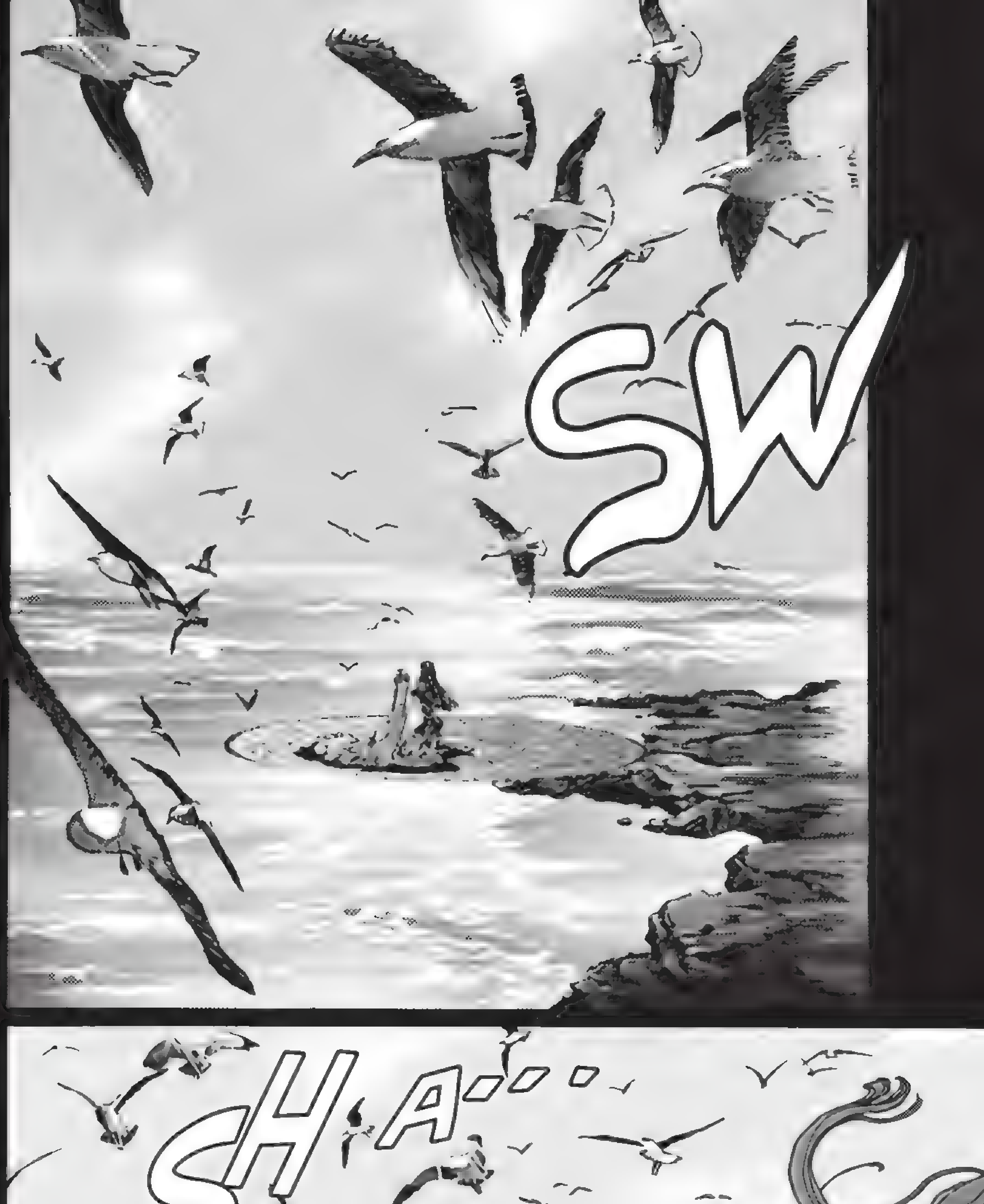

THE KAMUI POSSESSES TWO FUTURES.
MY DEAR SISTER ...
...YOUR PROPHECIES HAVE NEVER BEEN WRONG. THE FUTURE THAT YOU SEE...
...WILL DEFINITELY COME TO PASS.

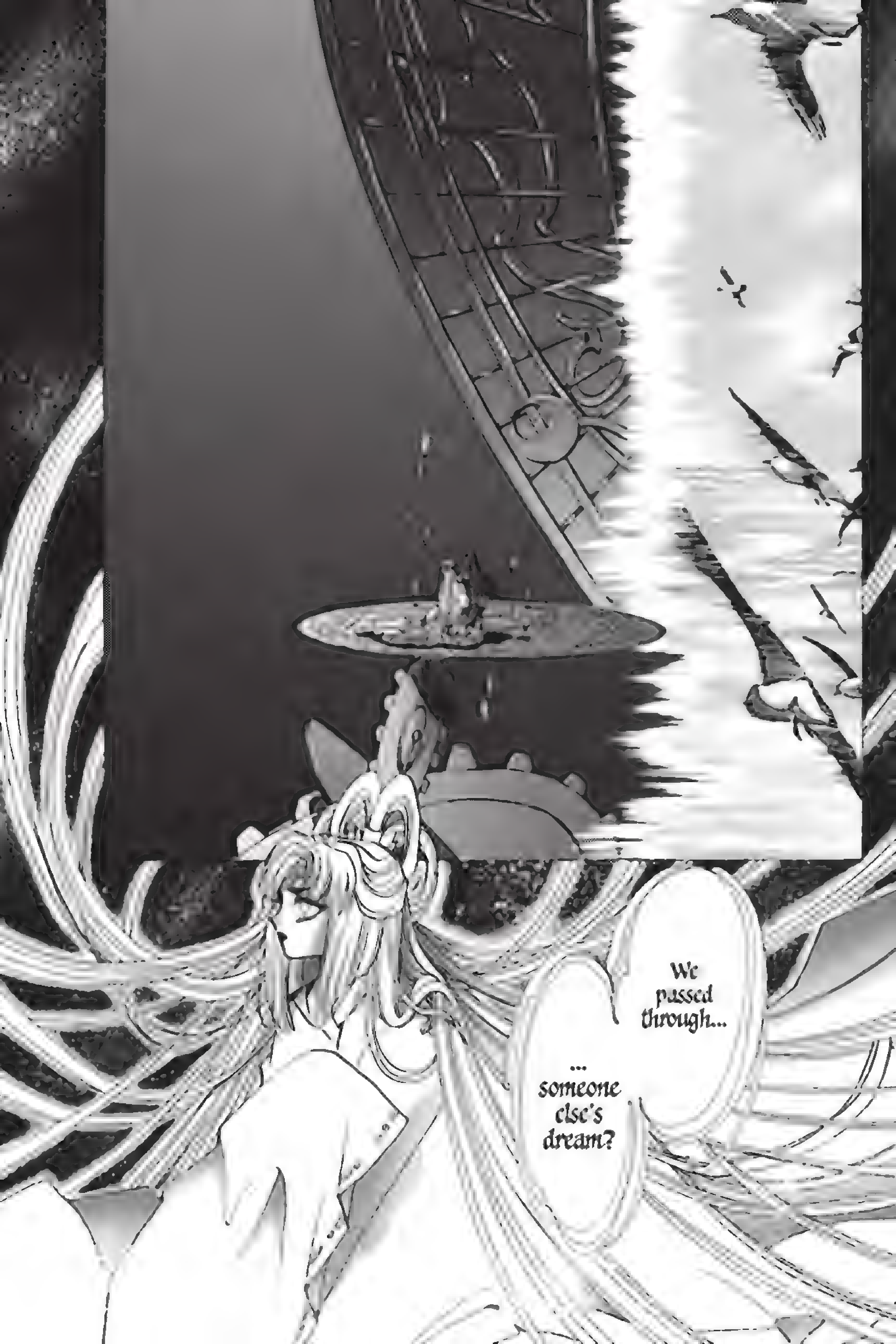

BUT EVEN SO...
STROKE
CRINGE
...THE KAMUI MAY HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE IT.

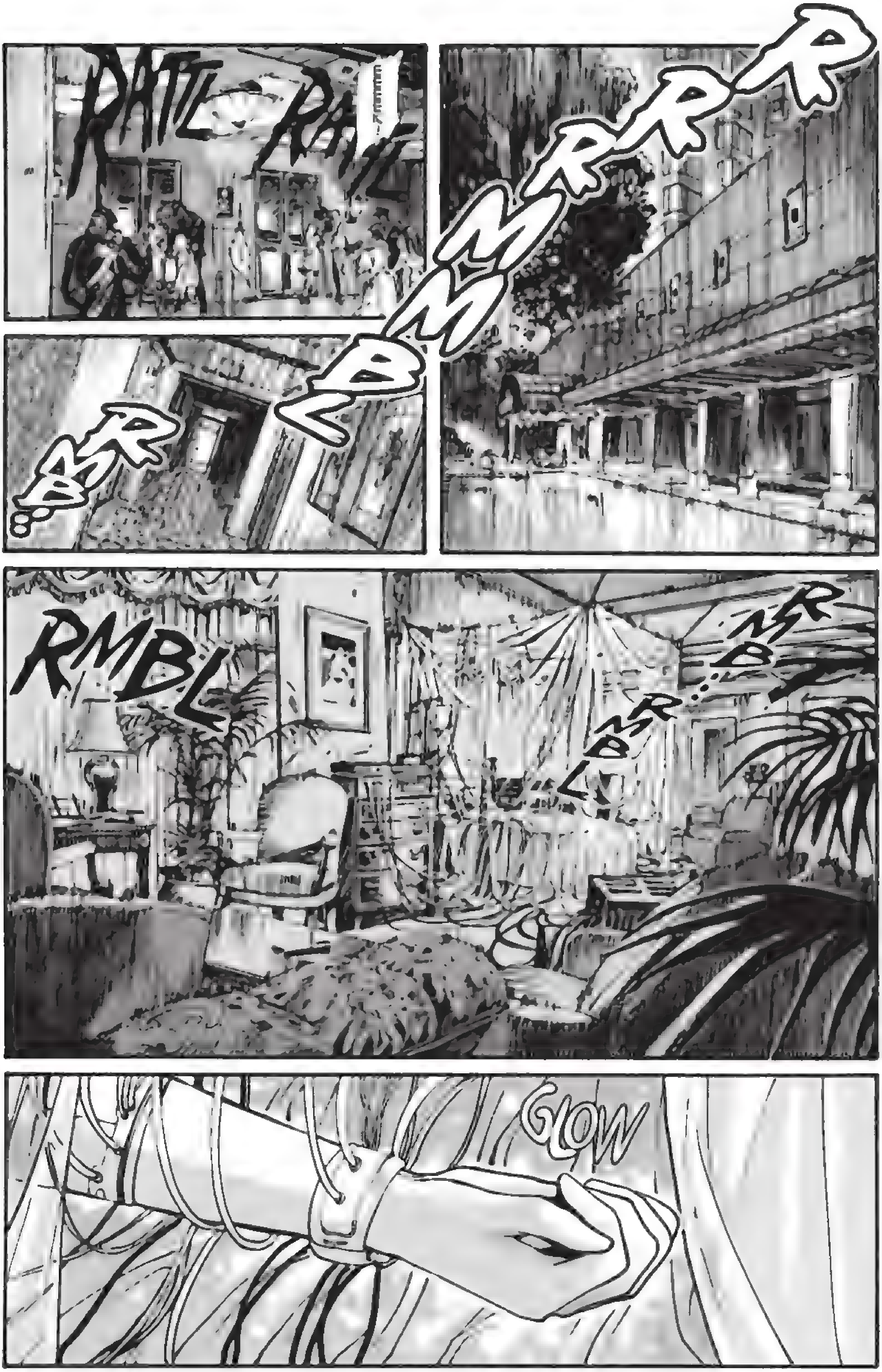

HOW LONG DO YOU SUPPOSE TOKYO'S KEKKAI WILL HOLD?
Kanoe!
TWITCH
Why are you doing this? Why are you bringing the Dragons of Earth together?

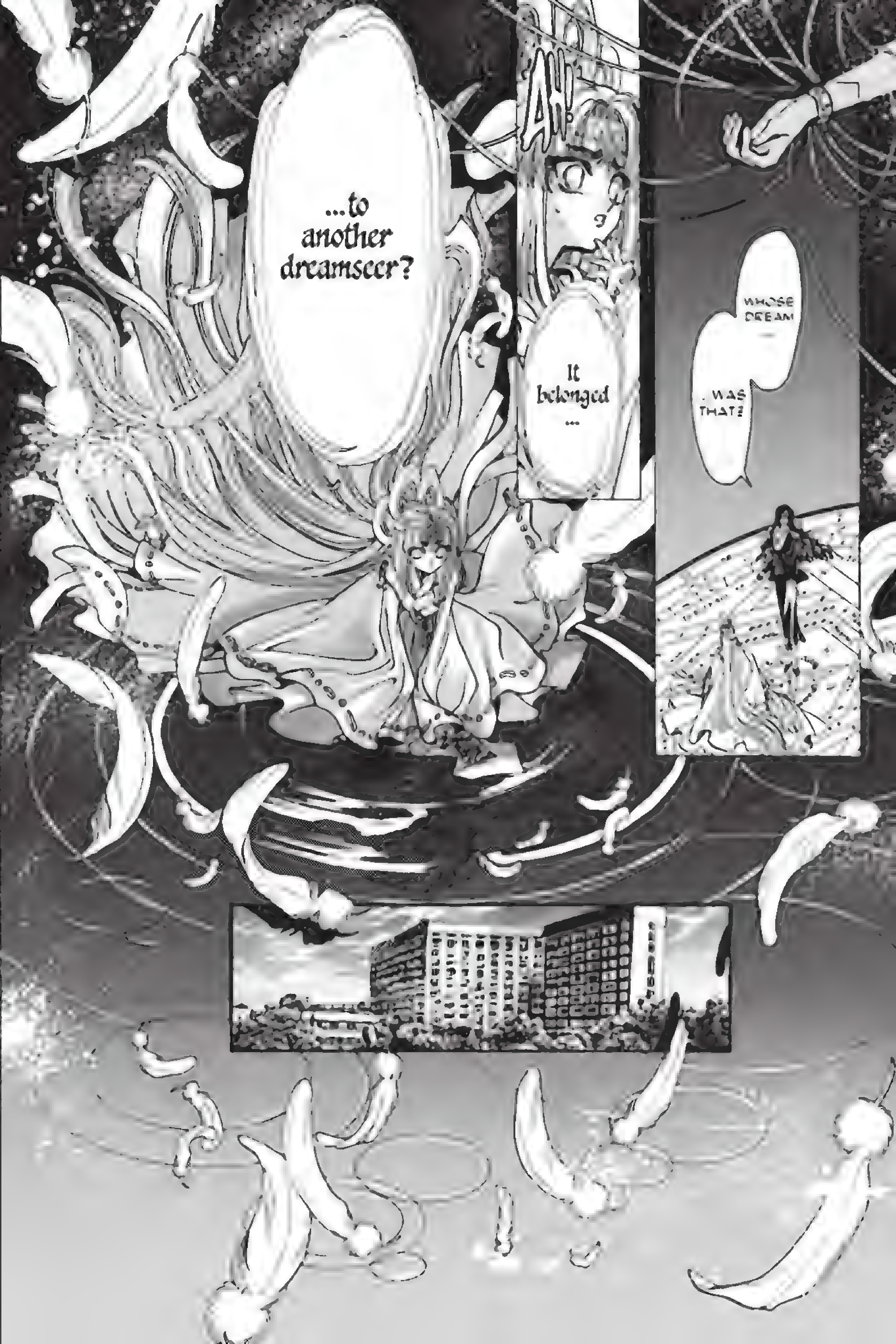

Why are you seeking the world's destruction?
SSH
IT'S ALL FOR YOUR SAKE.
FOR YOU.
For me...?

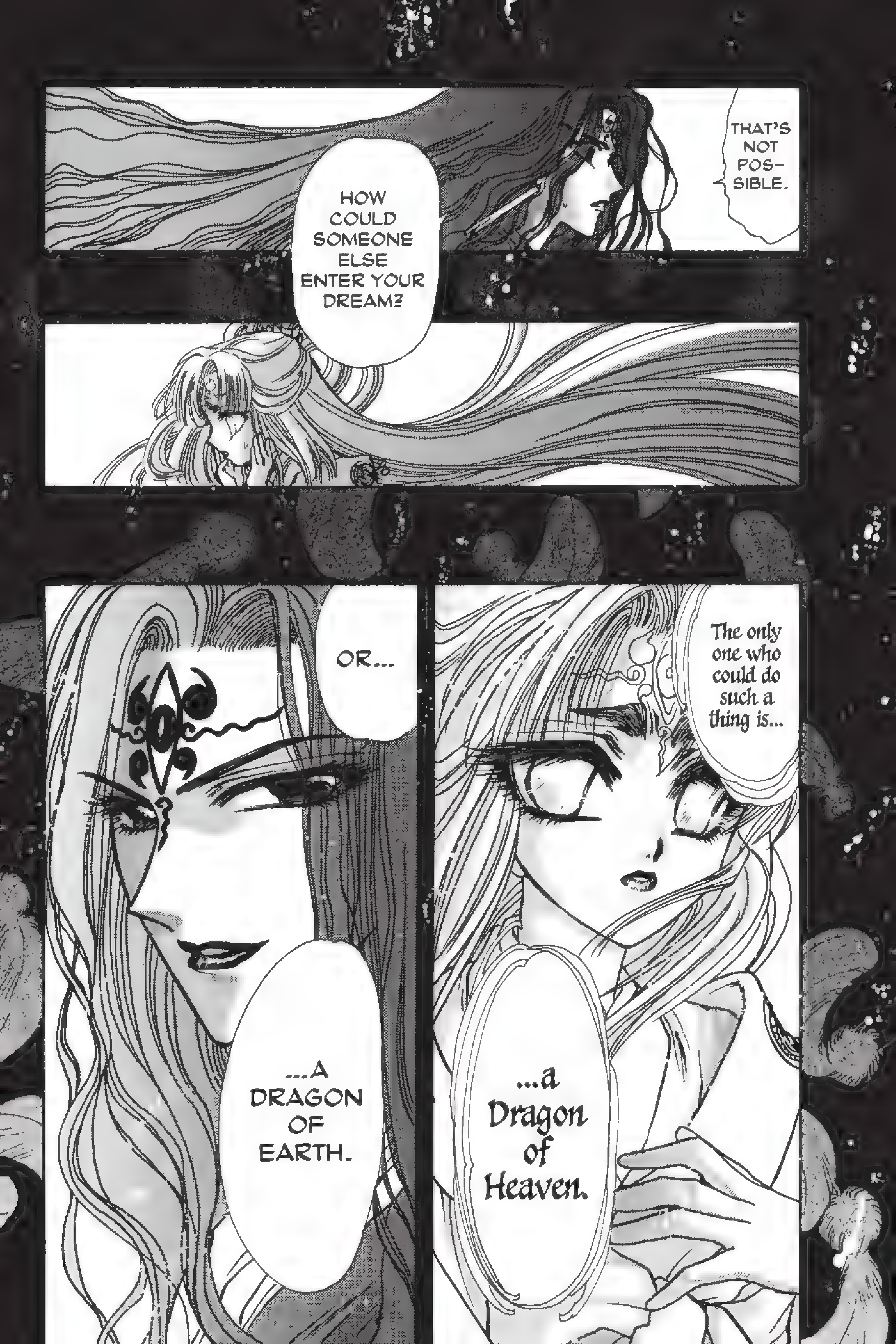

SH
A DREAM ?!

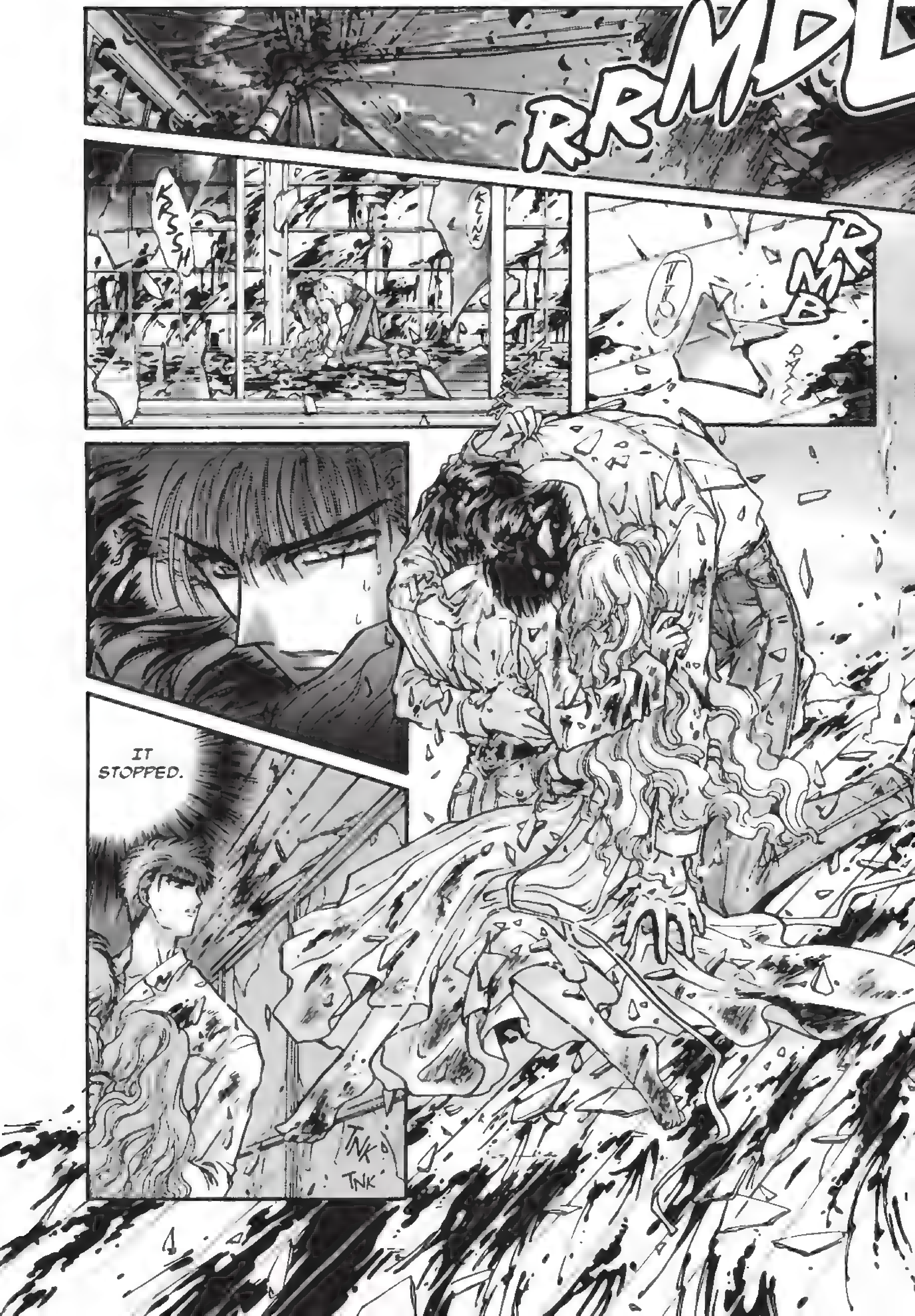

SW
SHA···

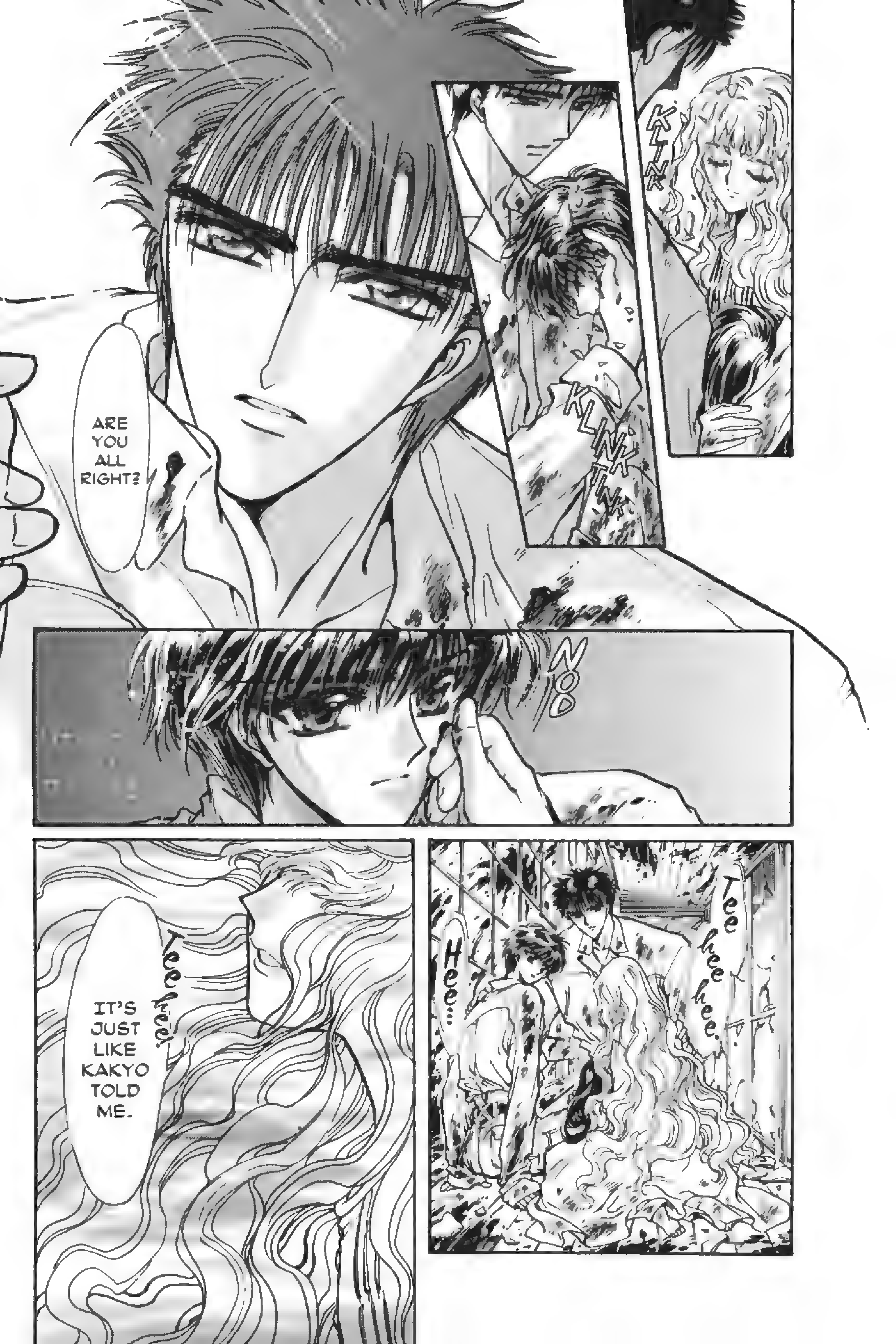

We passed through...
... someone else's dream?

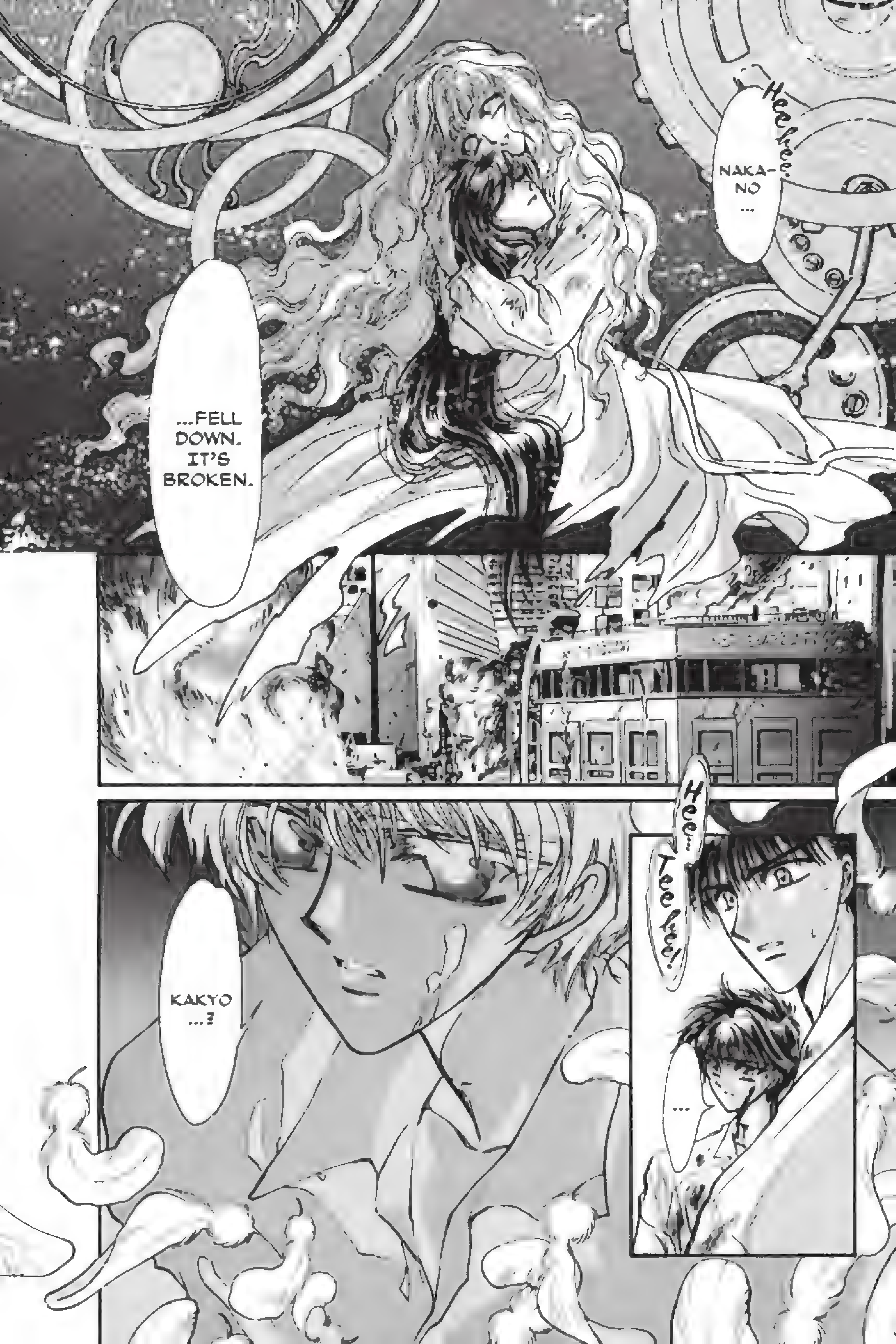

RATTL RATTL
RRRRMMB
RB..
RMBL
RB...RBL
GLOW

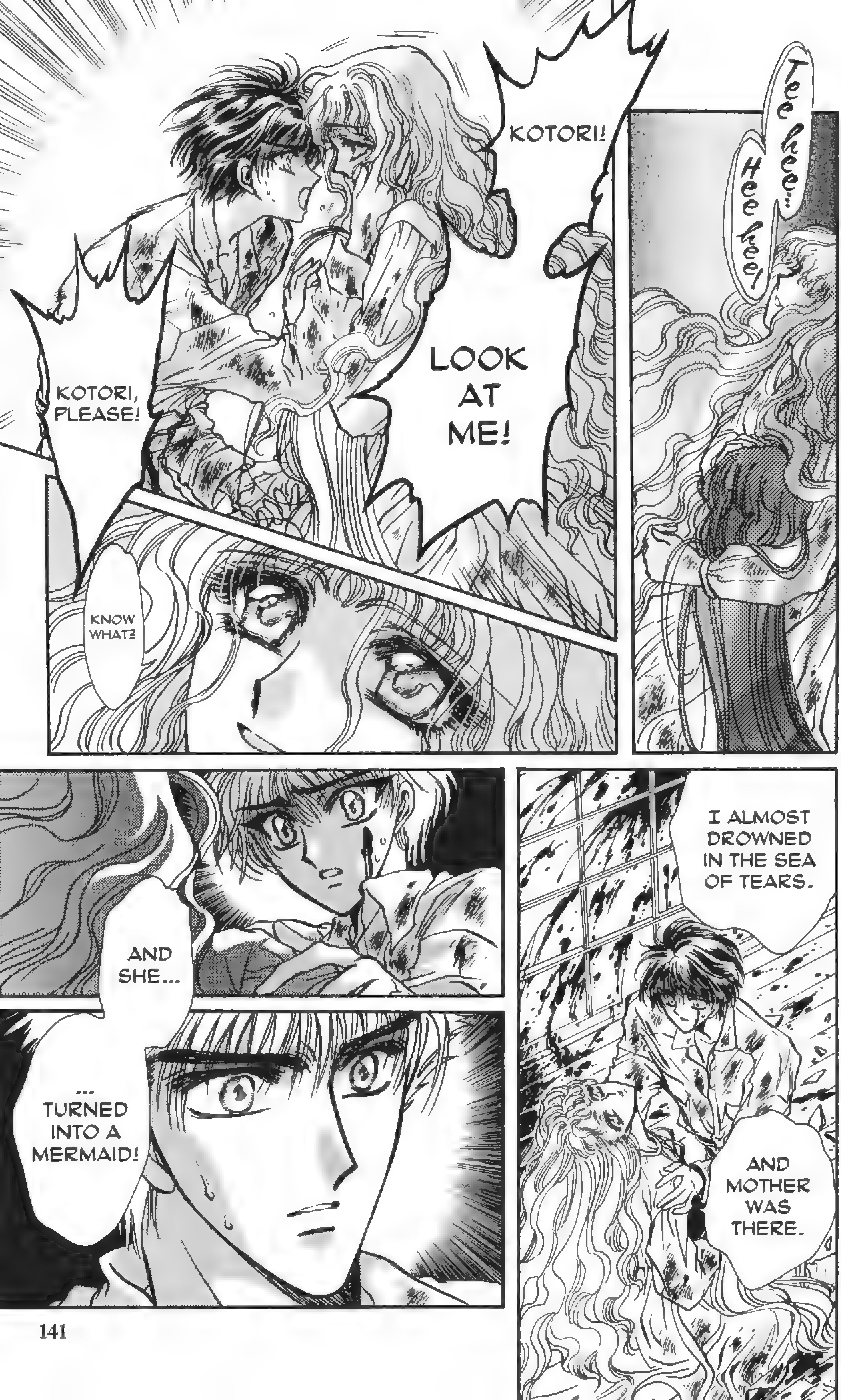

WHOSE DREAM —
... WAS THAT?
AH!
It belonged ...
...to another dreamseer?

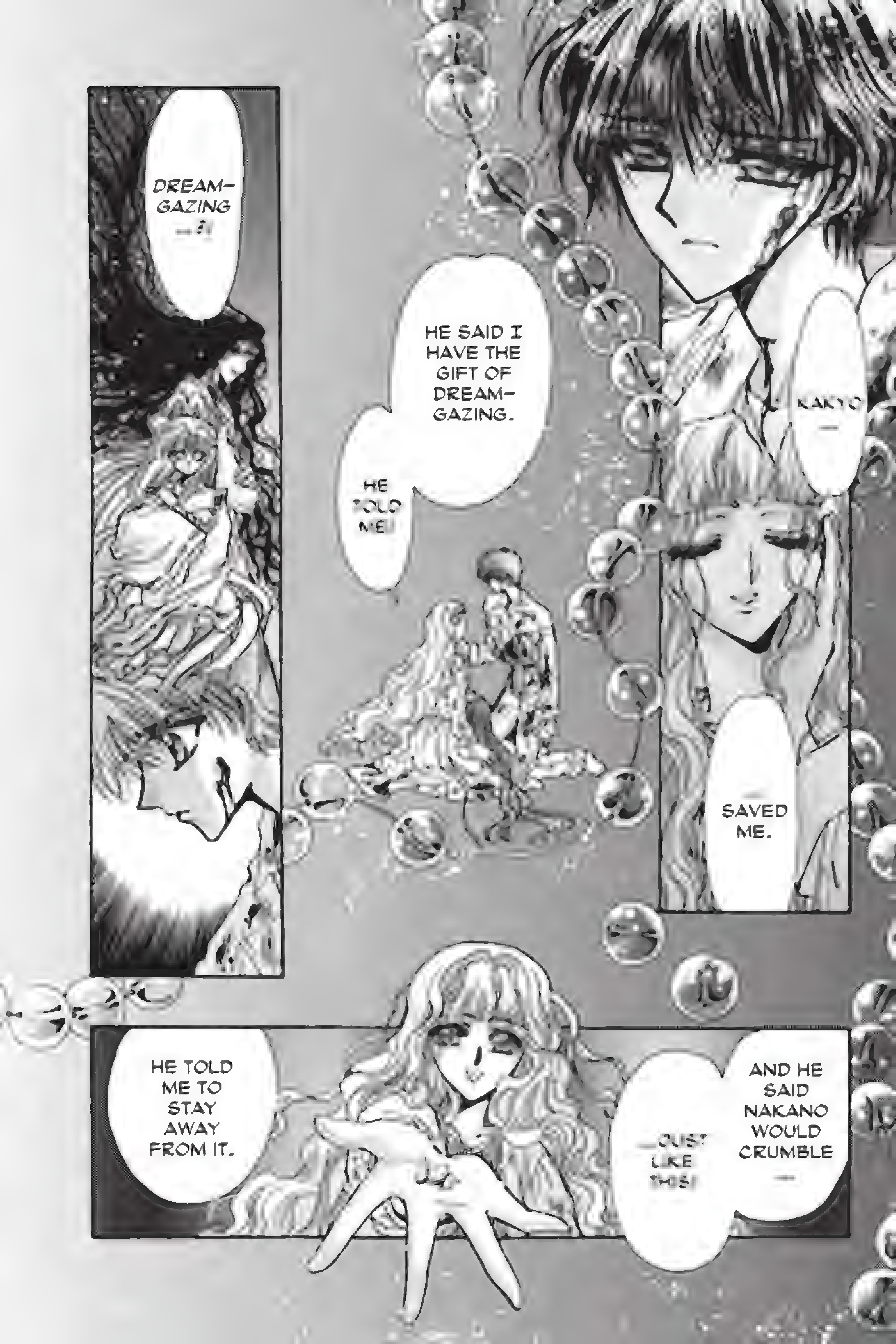

THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
HOW COULD SOMEONE ELSE ENTER YOUR DREAM?
The only one who could do such a thing is...
...a Dragon of Heaven.
OR...
...A DRAGON OF EARTH.

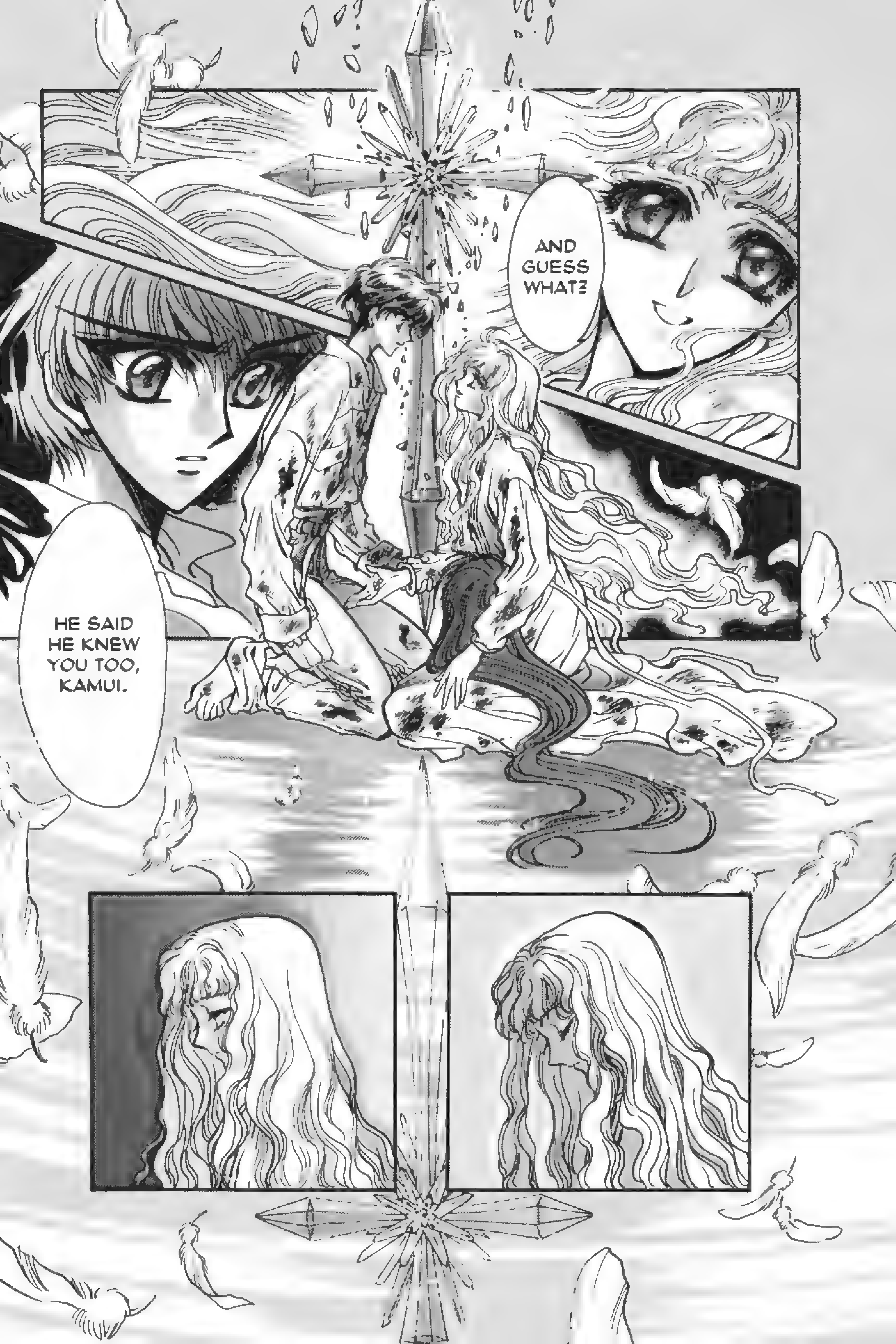

RRMBL
RRMB
TIK
RATTL
KLINK
KRSSH
IT STOPPED.
TNK
TNK

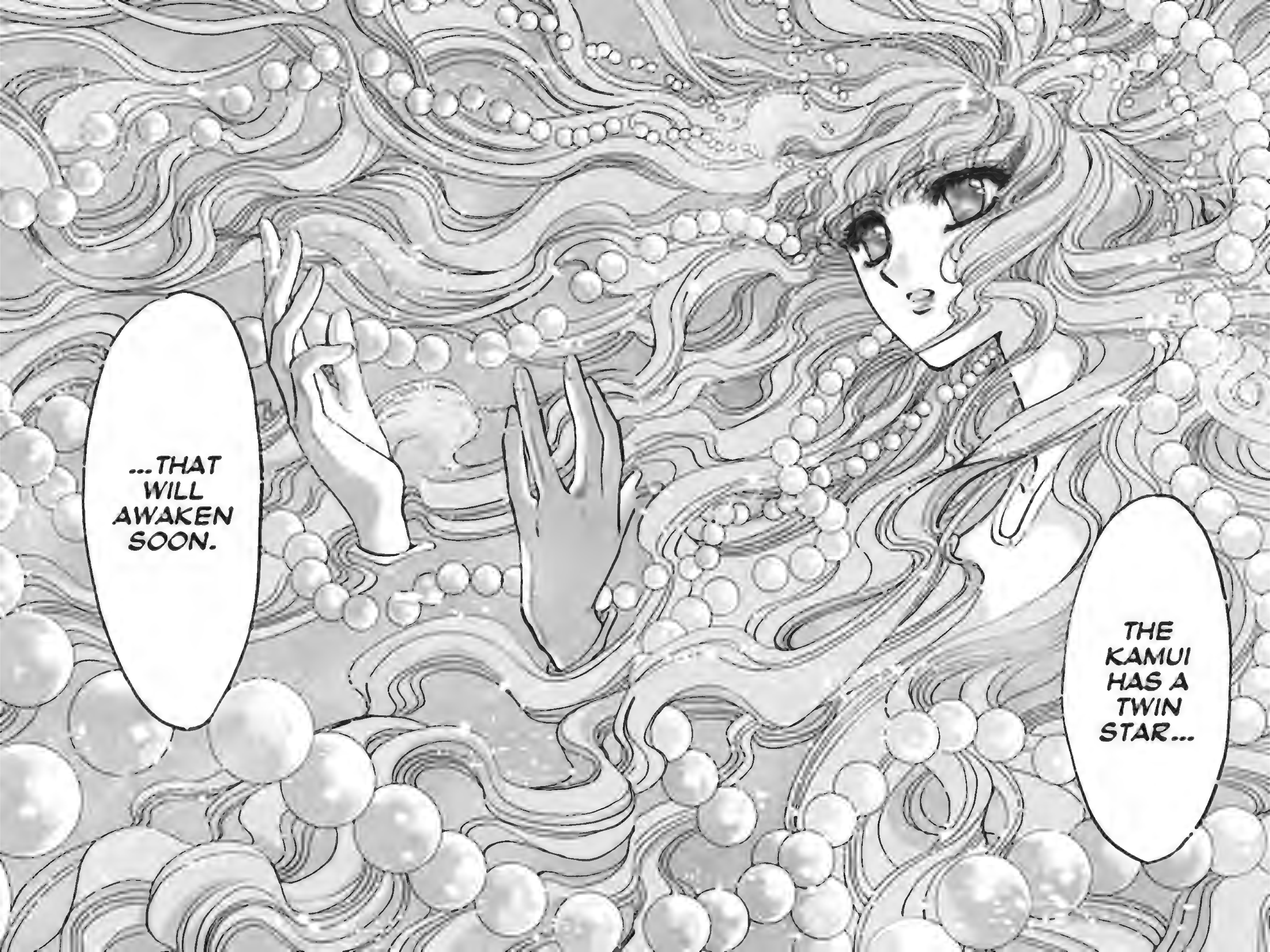

KLINK
KLINK TINK
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
NOD
Tee hee hee.
Hee...
Tee hee.
IT'S JUST LIKE KAKYO TOLD ME.

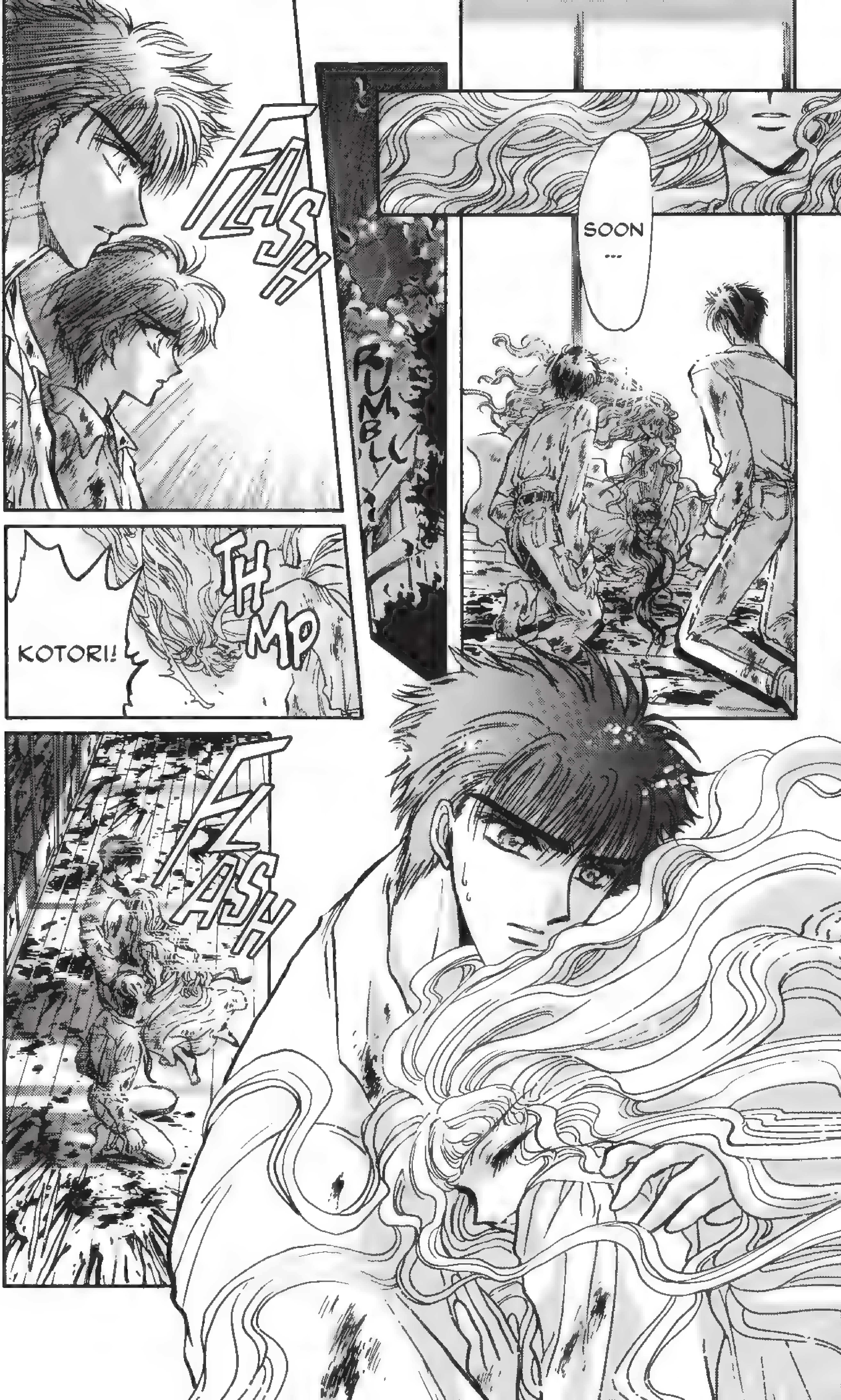

Heehee.
NAKA-NO ...
...FELL DOWN. IT'S BROKEN.
Hee... Teehee!
...
KAKYO ...?

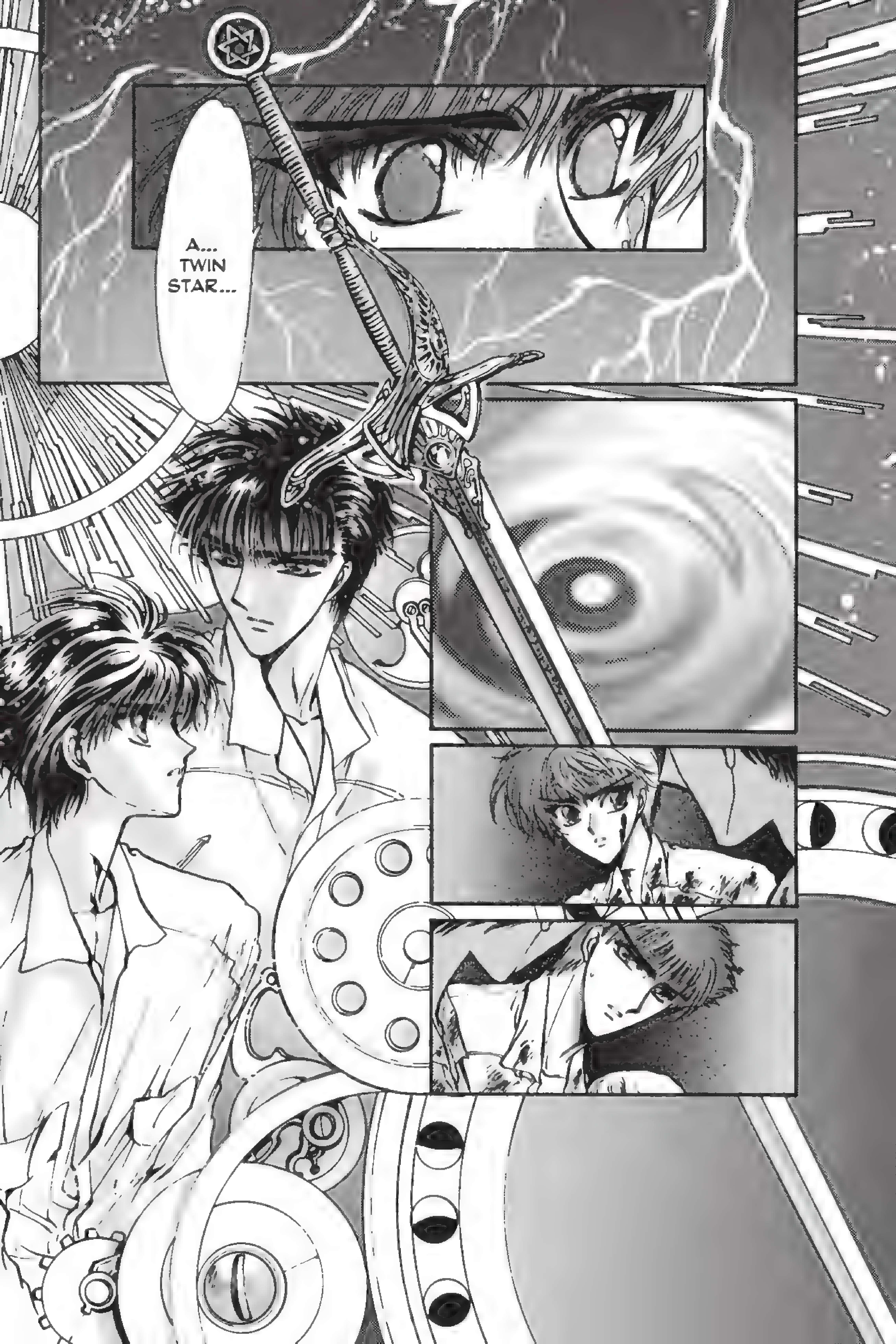

Tee hee... Hee hee!
KOTORI!
LOOK AT ME!
KOTORI, PLEASE!
KNOW WHAT?
I ALMOST DROWNED IN THE SEA OF TEARS.
AND MOTHER WAS THERE.
AND SHE...
...TURNED INTO A MERMAID!

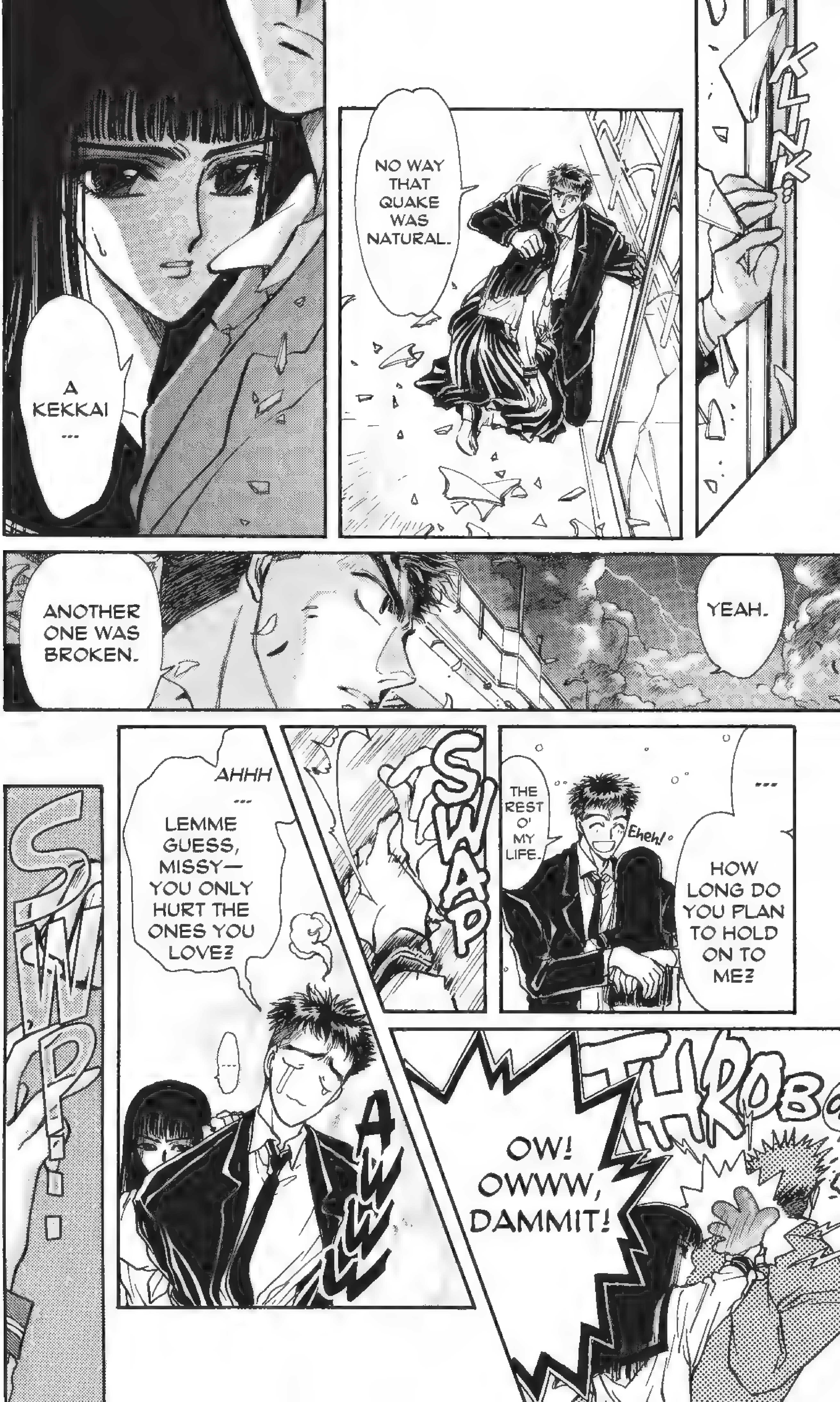

KAKYO —
— SAVED ME.
HE SAID I HAVE THE GIFT OF DREAM-GAZING.
HE TOLD ME!
DREAM-GAZING —?!
AND HE SAID NAKANO WOULD CRUMBLE —
—JUST LIKE THIS!
HE TOLD ME TO STAY AWAY FROM IT.

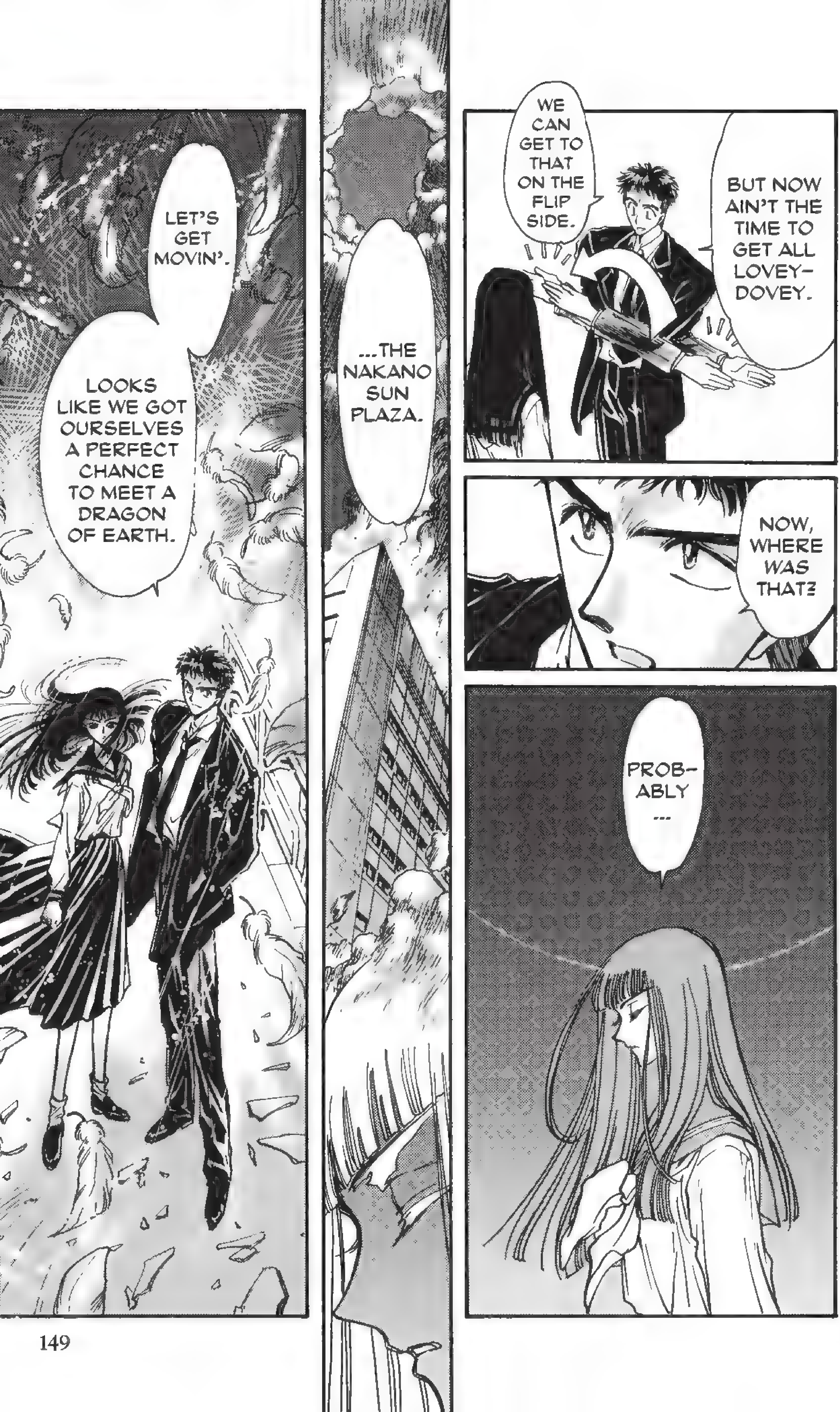

AND GUESS WHAT?
HE SAID HE KNEW YOU TOO, KAMUI.

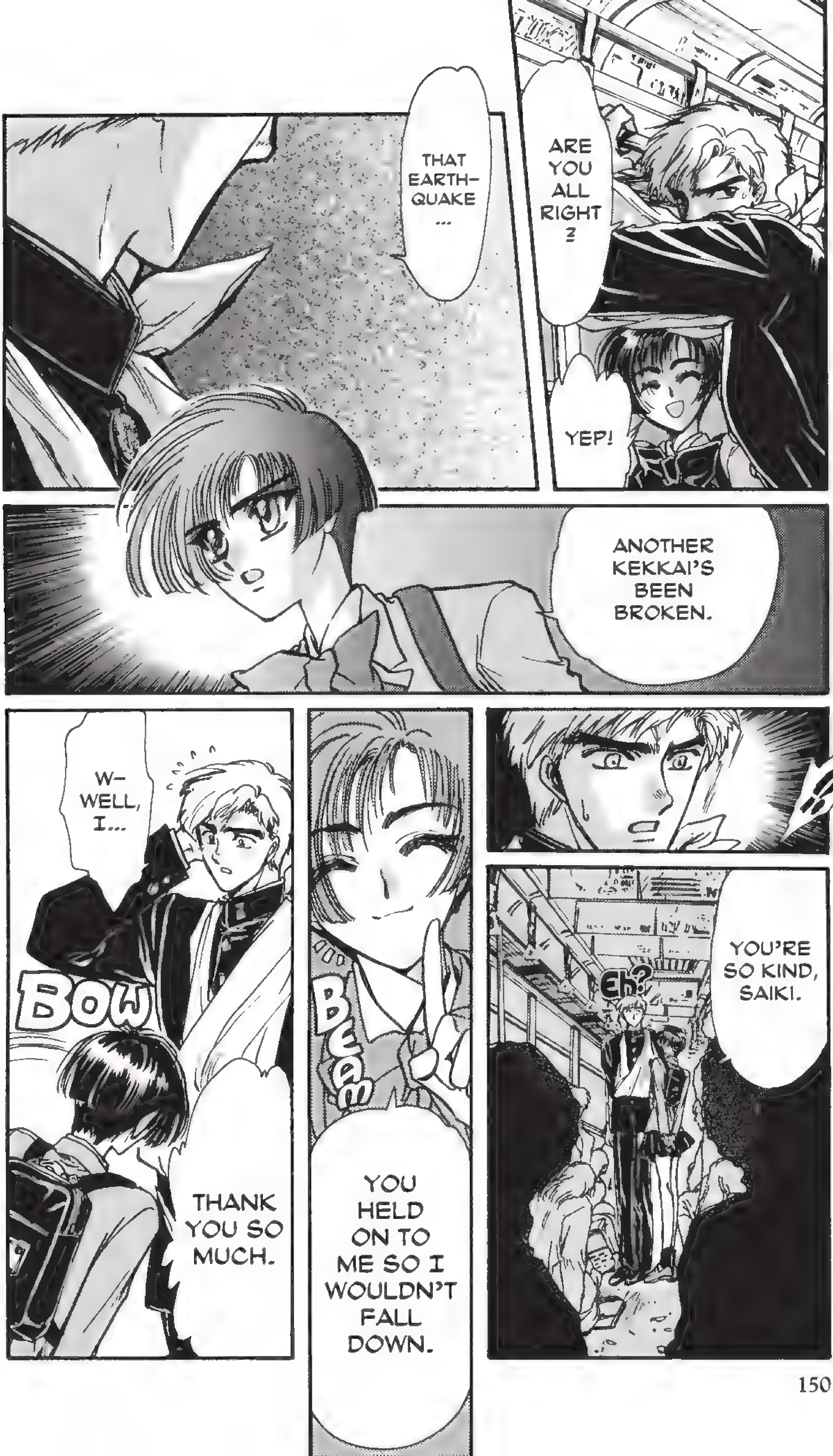

THE KAMUI HAS A TWIN STAR...
...THAT WILL AWAKEN SOON.

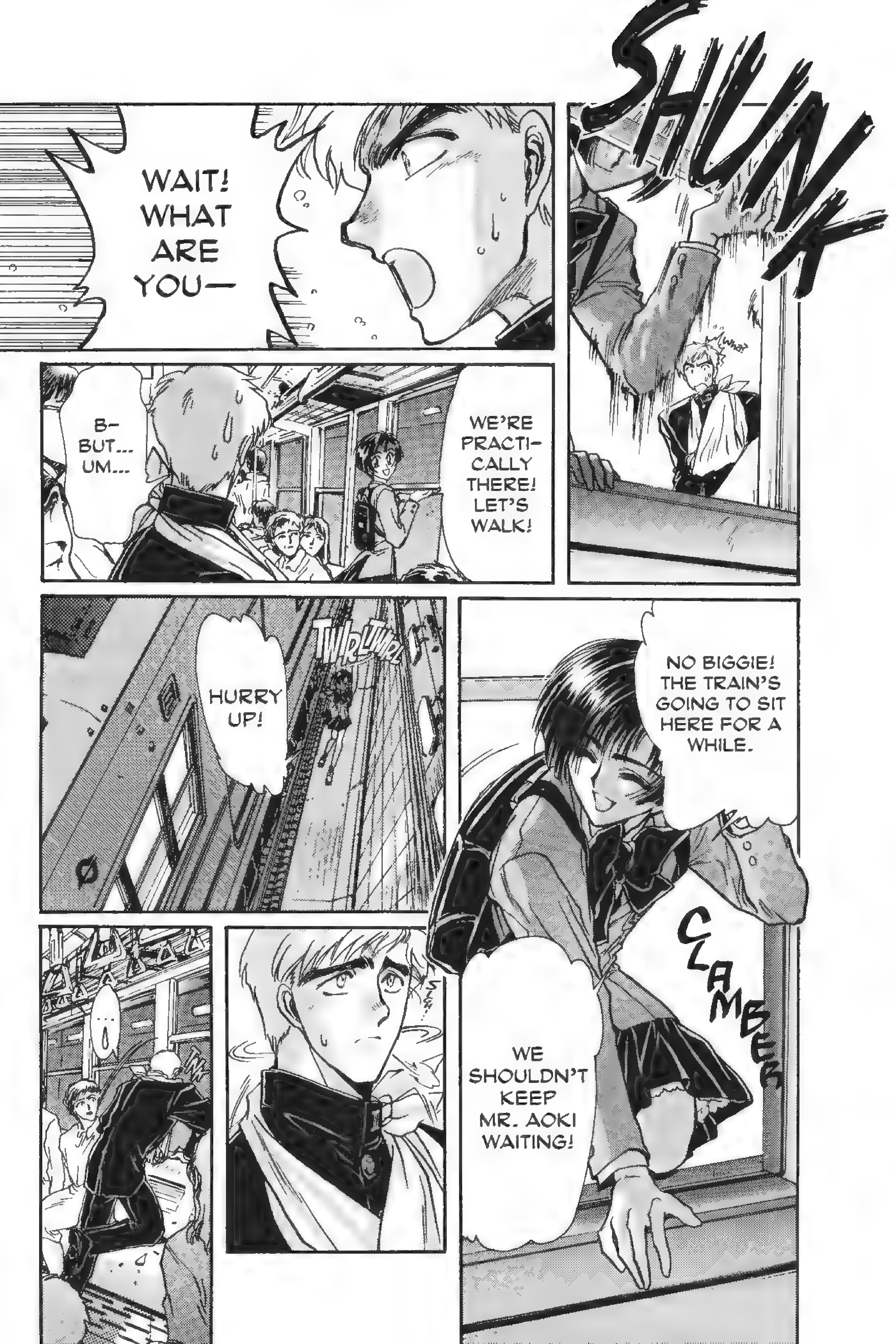

SOON ...
RUMBLE
FLASH
THUMP
KOTORI!
FLASH

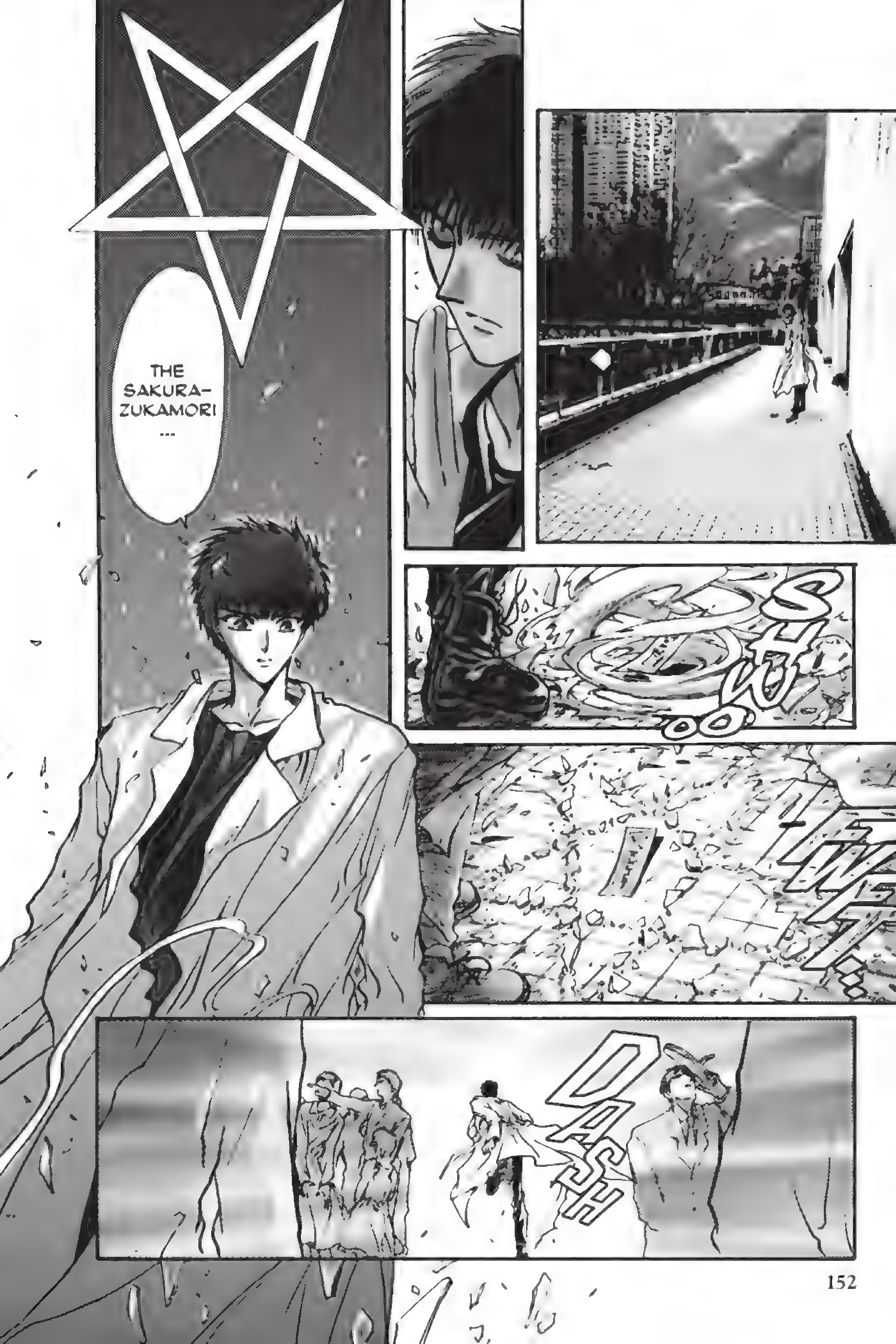

A... TWIN STAR...

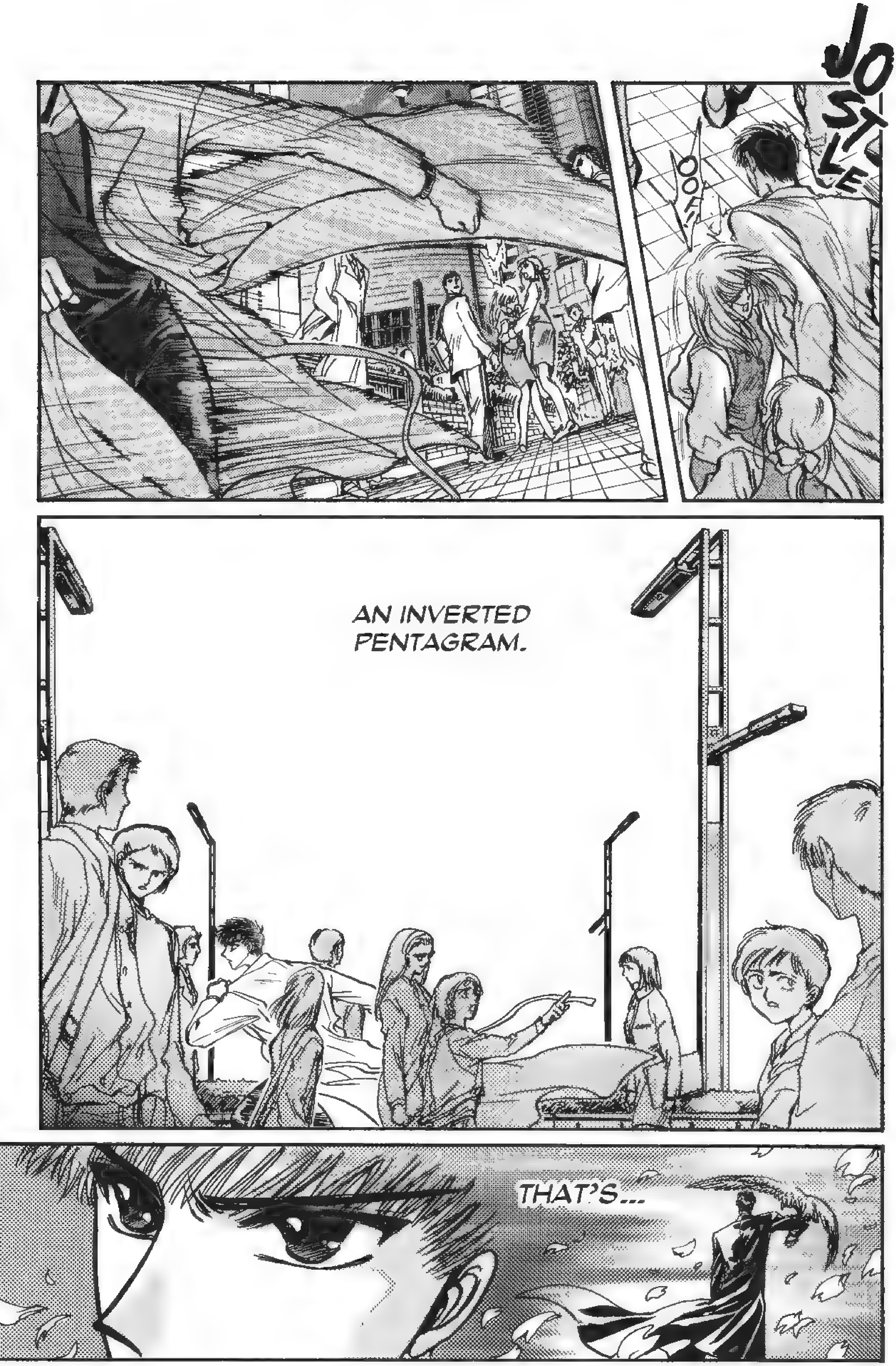

KLINK
NO WAY THAT QUAKE WAS NATURAL.
A KEKKAI ...
YEAH.
ANOTHER ONE WAS BROKEN.
... HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN TO HOLD ON TO ME?
THE REST O' MY LIFE.
Eheh!
SWAP
AHHH ... LEMME GUESS, MISSY— YOU ONLY HURT THE ONES YOU LOVE?
THROB
OW! OWWW, DAMMIT!
AWWW
...
SWAP

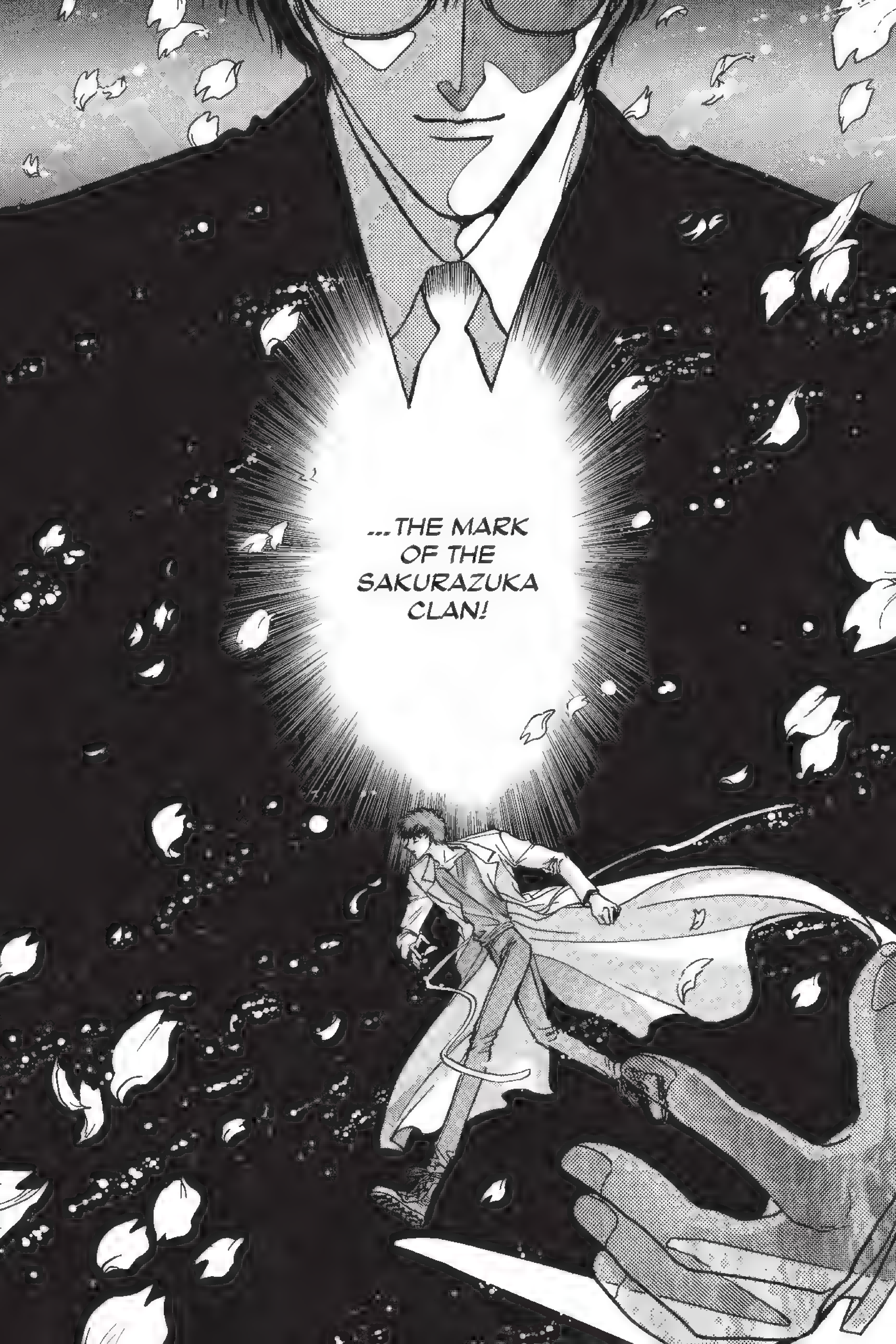

BUT NOW AIN'T THE TIME TO GET ALL LOVEY-DOVEY.
WE CAN GET TO THAT ON THE FLIP SIDE.
NOW, WHERE *WAS* THAT?
PROBABLY...
...THE NAKANO SUN PLAZA.
LET'S GET MOVIN'.
LOOKS LIKE WE GOT OURSELVES A PERFECT CHANCE TO MEET A DRAGON OF EARTH.

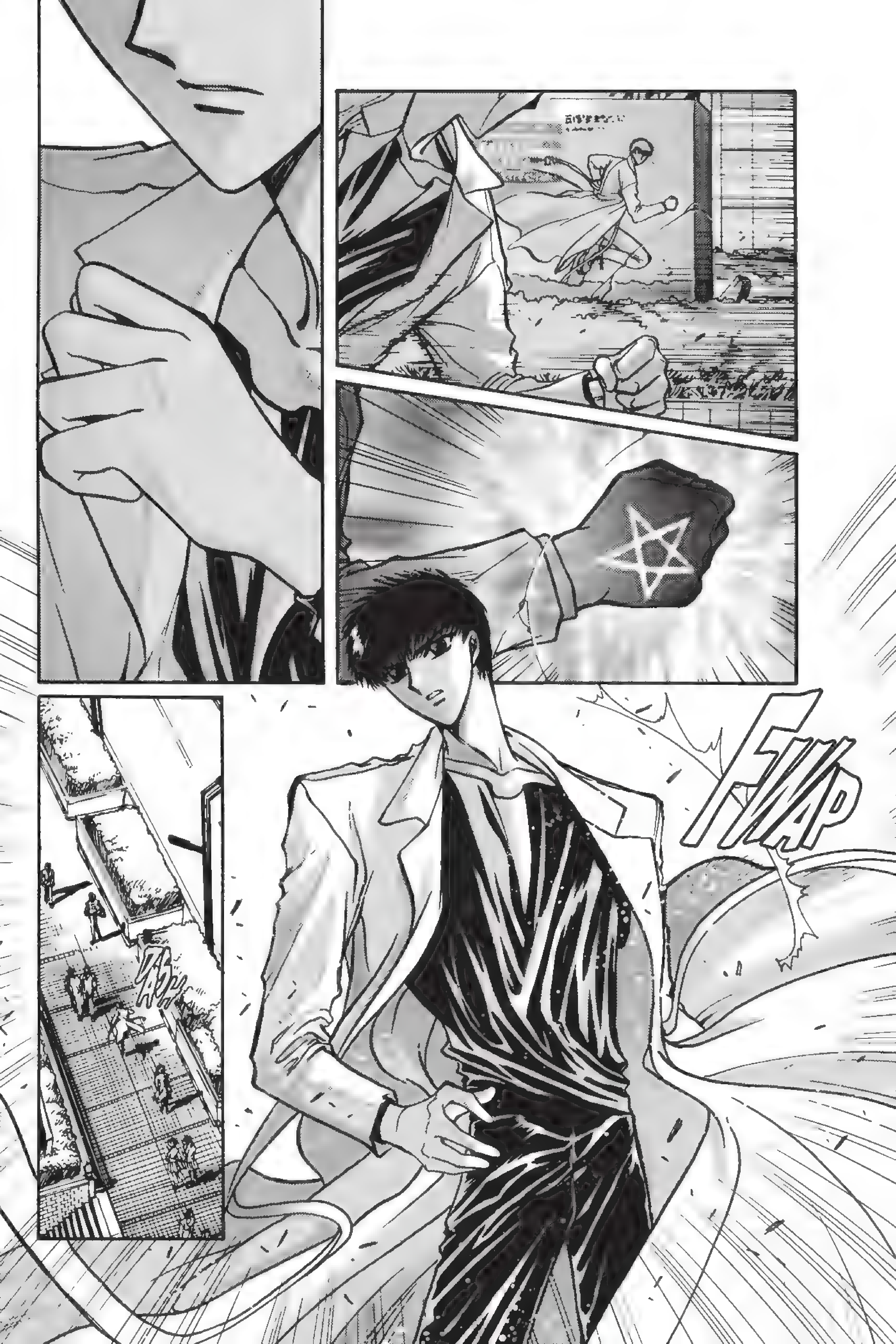

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YEP!
THAT EARTHQUAKE...
ANOTHER KEKKAI'S BEEN BROKEN.
YOU'RE SO KIND, SAIKI.
Eh?
BEAM
YOU HELD ON TO ME SO I WOULDN'T FALL DOWN.
BOW
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
W-WELL, I...

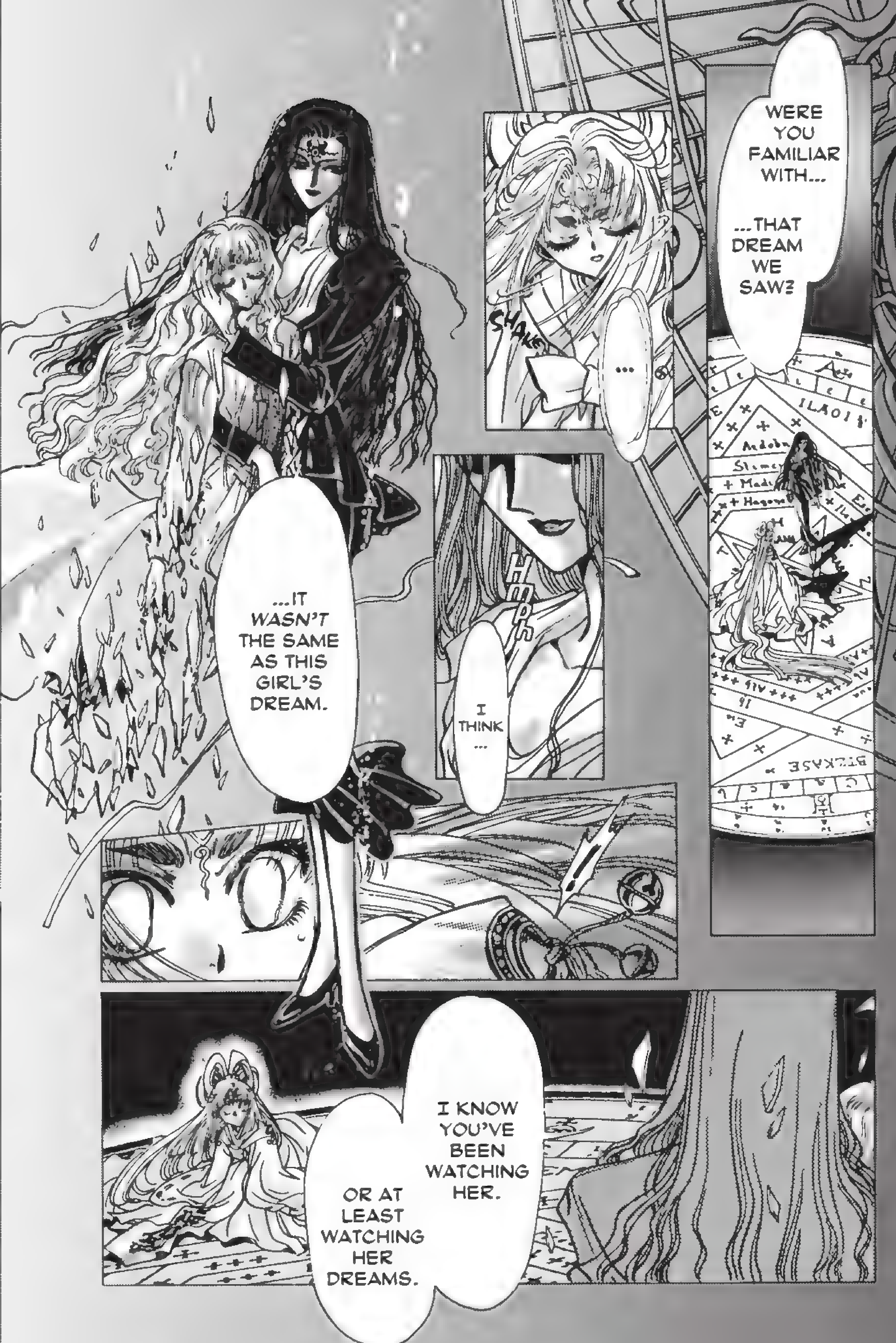

SHUNK
wha?
WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU—
WE'RE PRACTICALLY THERE! LET'S WALK!
B-BUT... UM...
NO BIGGIE! THE TRAIN'S GOING TO SIT HERE FOR A WHILE.
CLAMBER
WE SHOULDN'T KEEP MR. AOKI WAITING!
TWIRL TWIRL
HURRY UP!
SIGH...
...

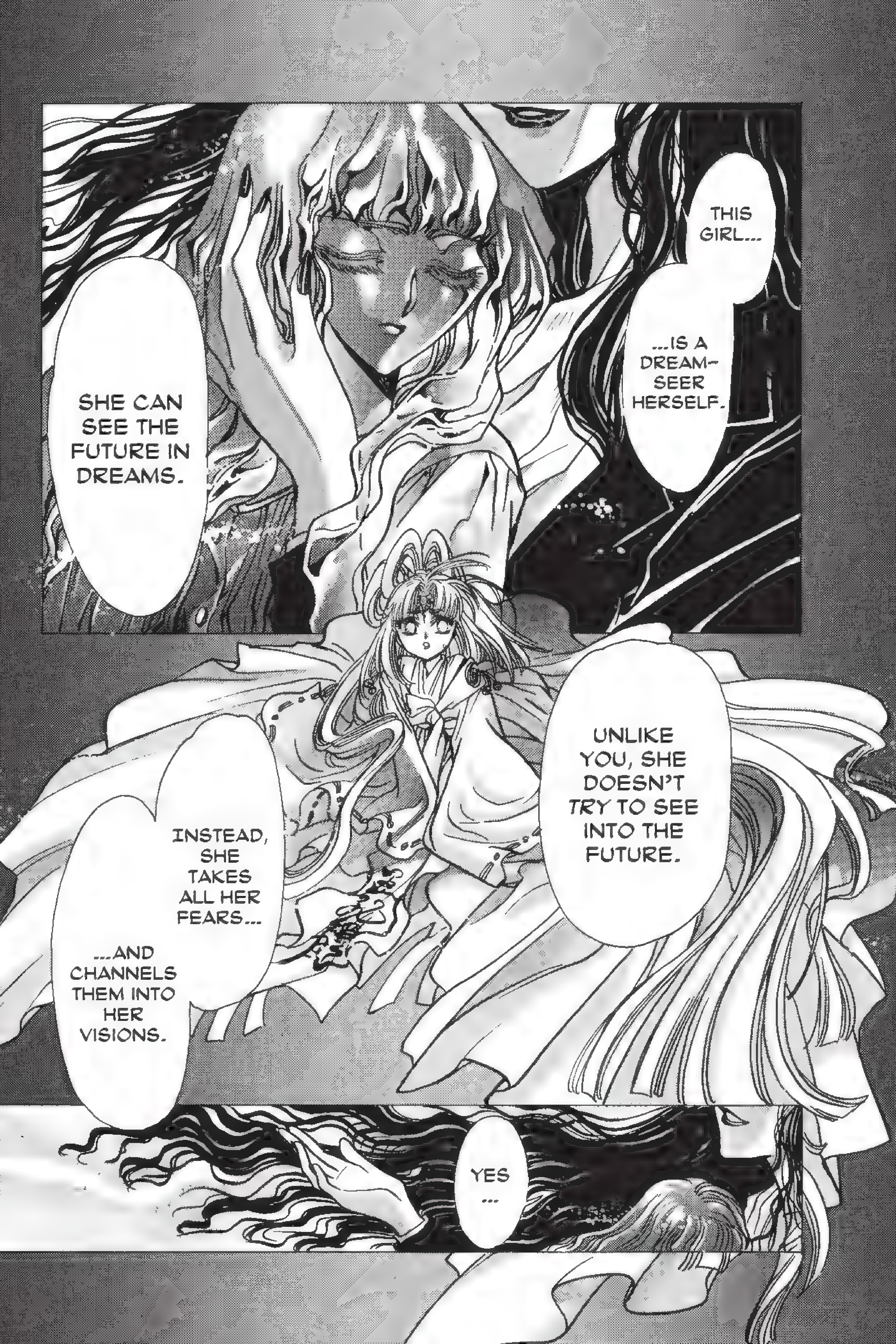

THE SAKURAZUKAMORI ...
SHOO...
SWEE...
DASH

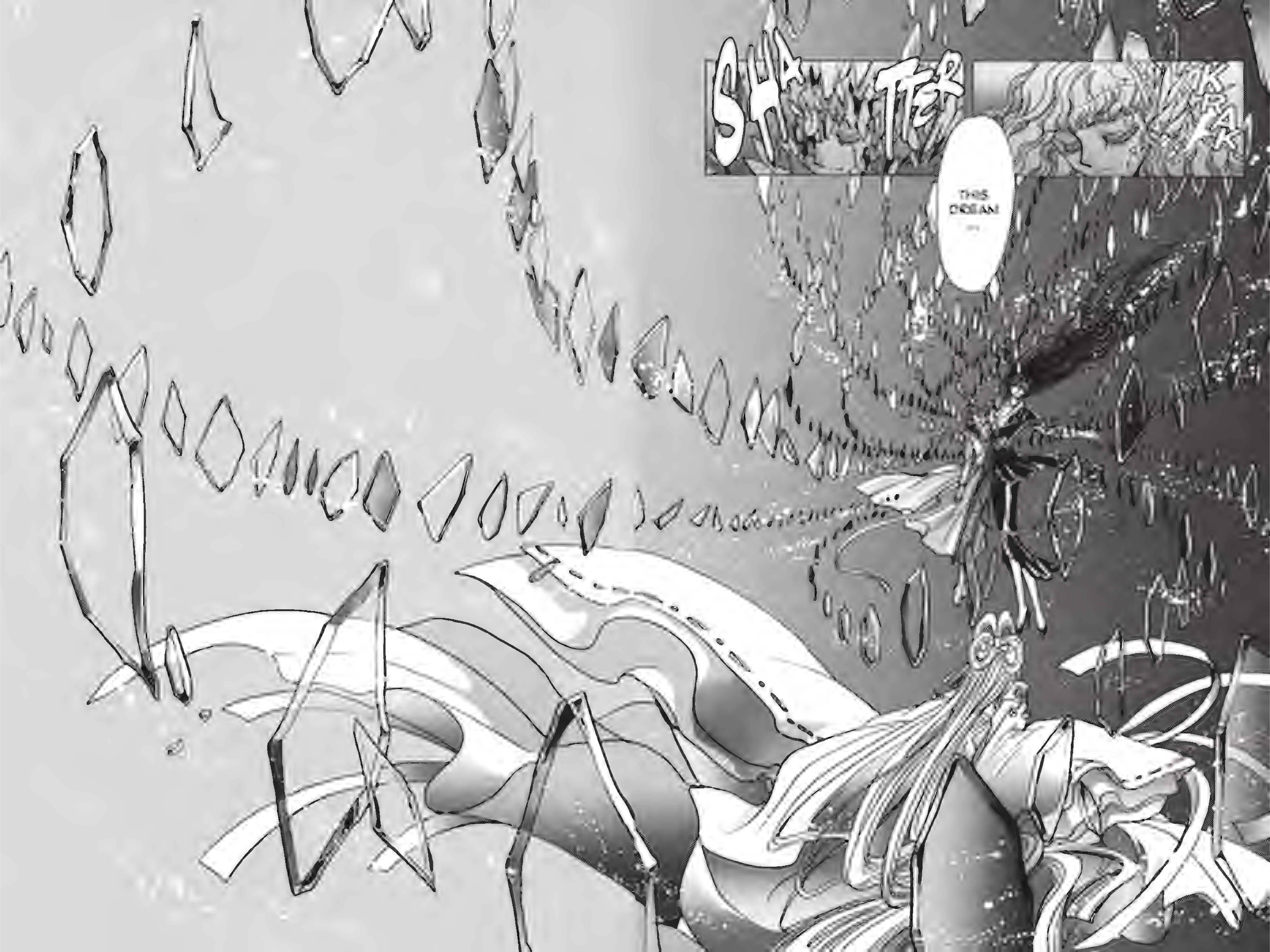

JOSTLE
OOF!
AN INVERTED PENTAGRAM.
THAT'S...

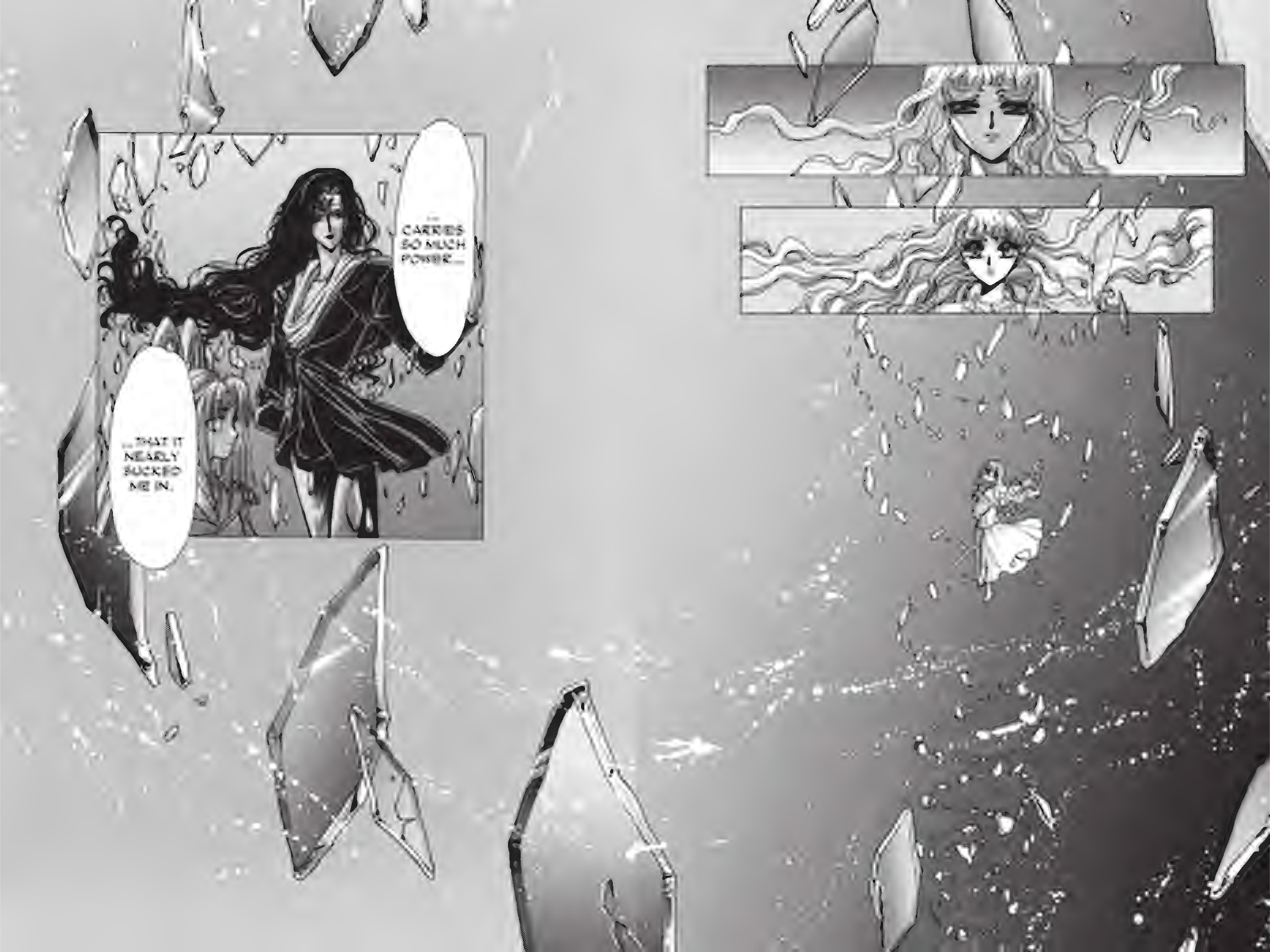

...THE MARK OF THE SAKURAZUKA CLAN!

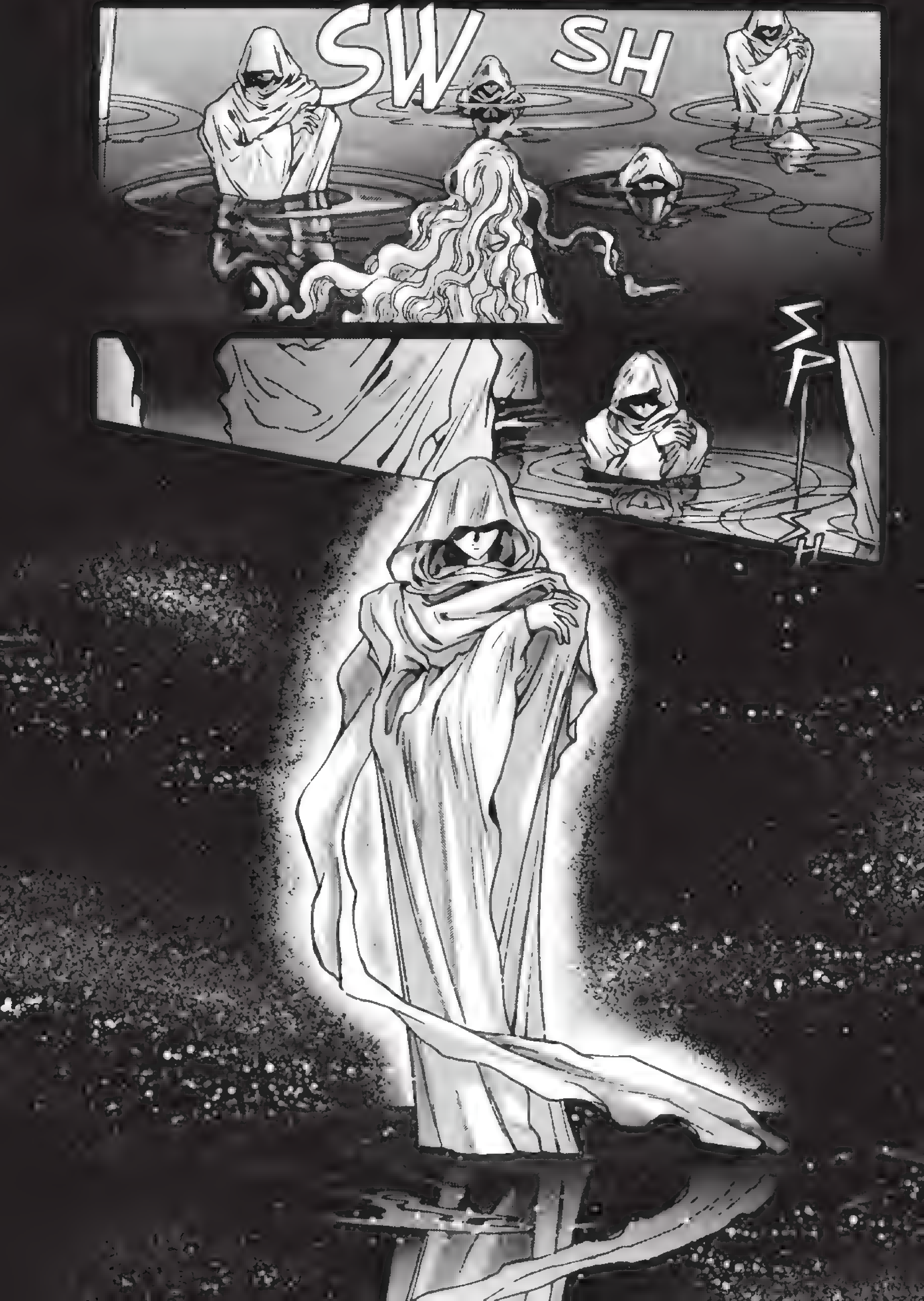

FTHAP
DASH

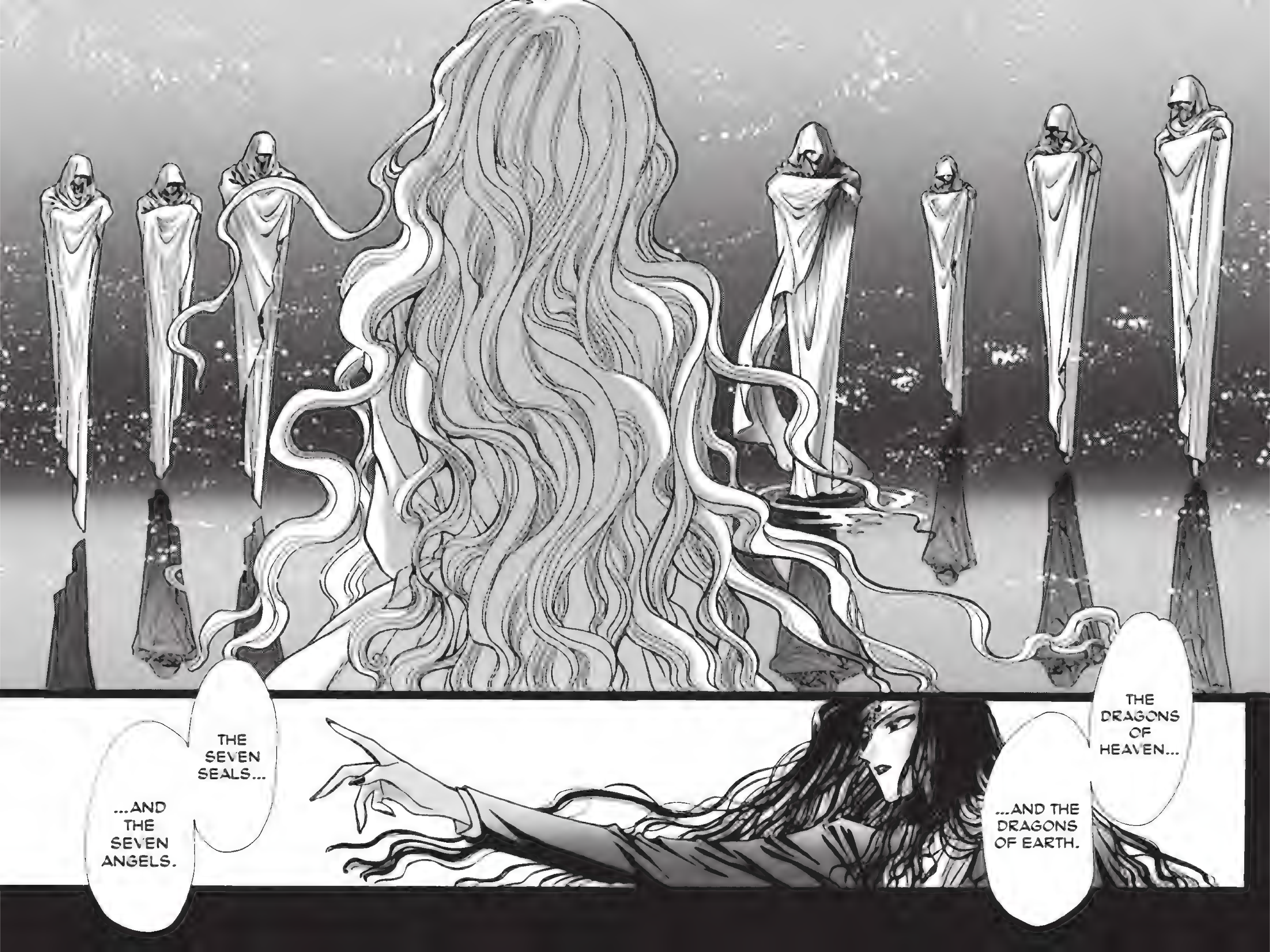

WERE YOU FAMILIAR WITH...
...THAT DREAM WE SAW?
SHAKE
...
Hmph
I THINK...
...IT *WASN'T* THE SAME AS THIS GIRL'S DREAM.
I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING HER.
OR AT LEAST WATCHING HER DREAMS.

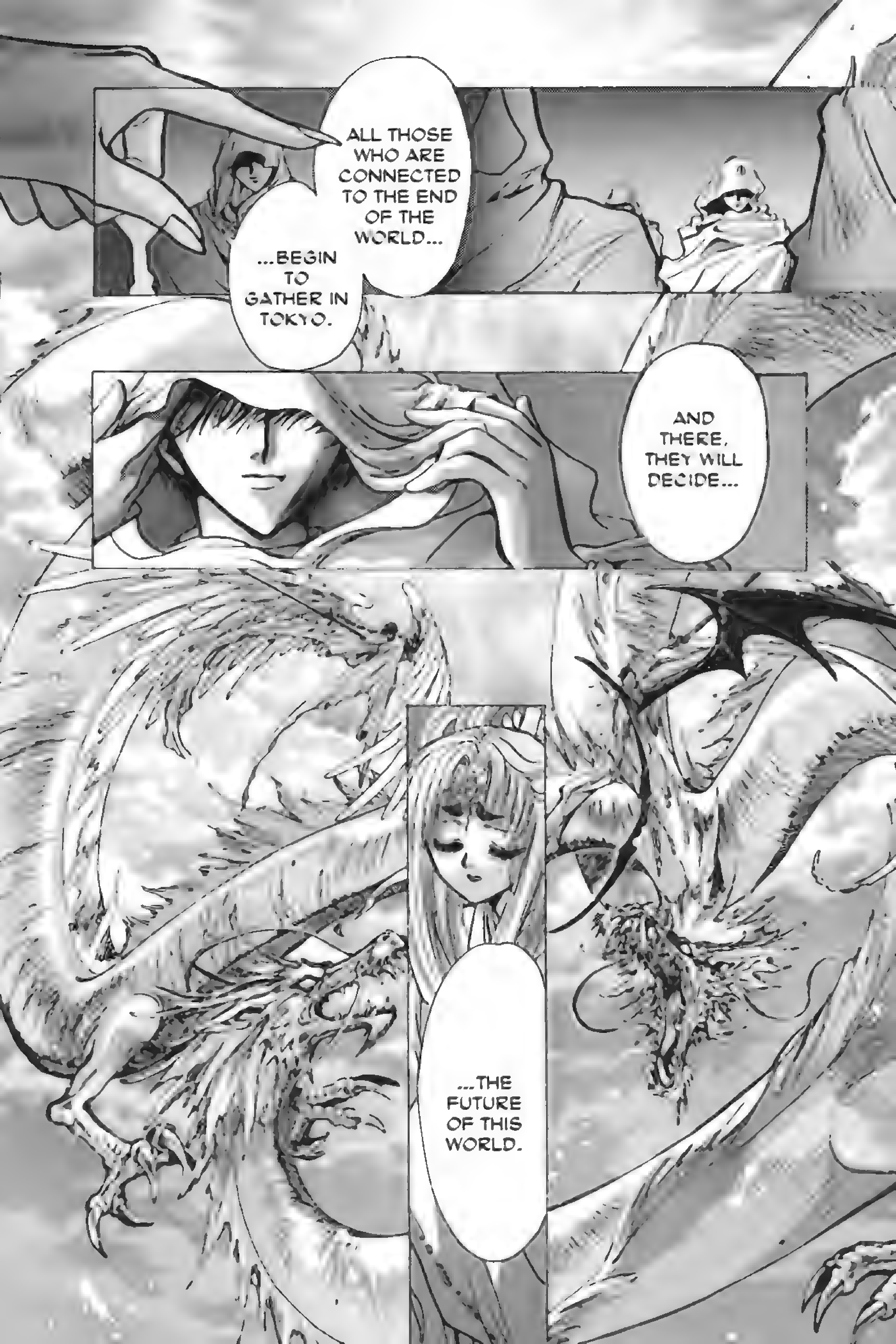

THIS GIRL...
...IS A DREAM-SEER HERSELF.
SHE CAN SEE THE FUTURE IN DREAMS.
UNLIKE YOU, SHE DOESN'T *TRY* TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE.
INSTEAD, SHE TAKES ALL HER FEARS...
...AND CHANNELS THEM INTO HER VISIONS.
YES...

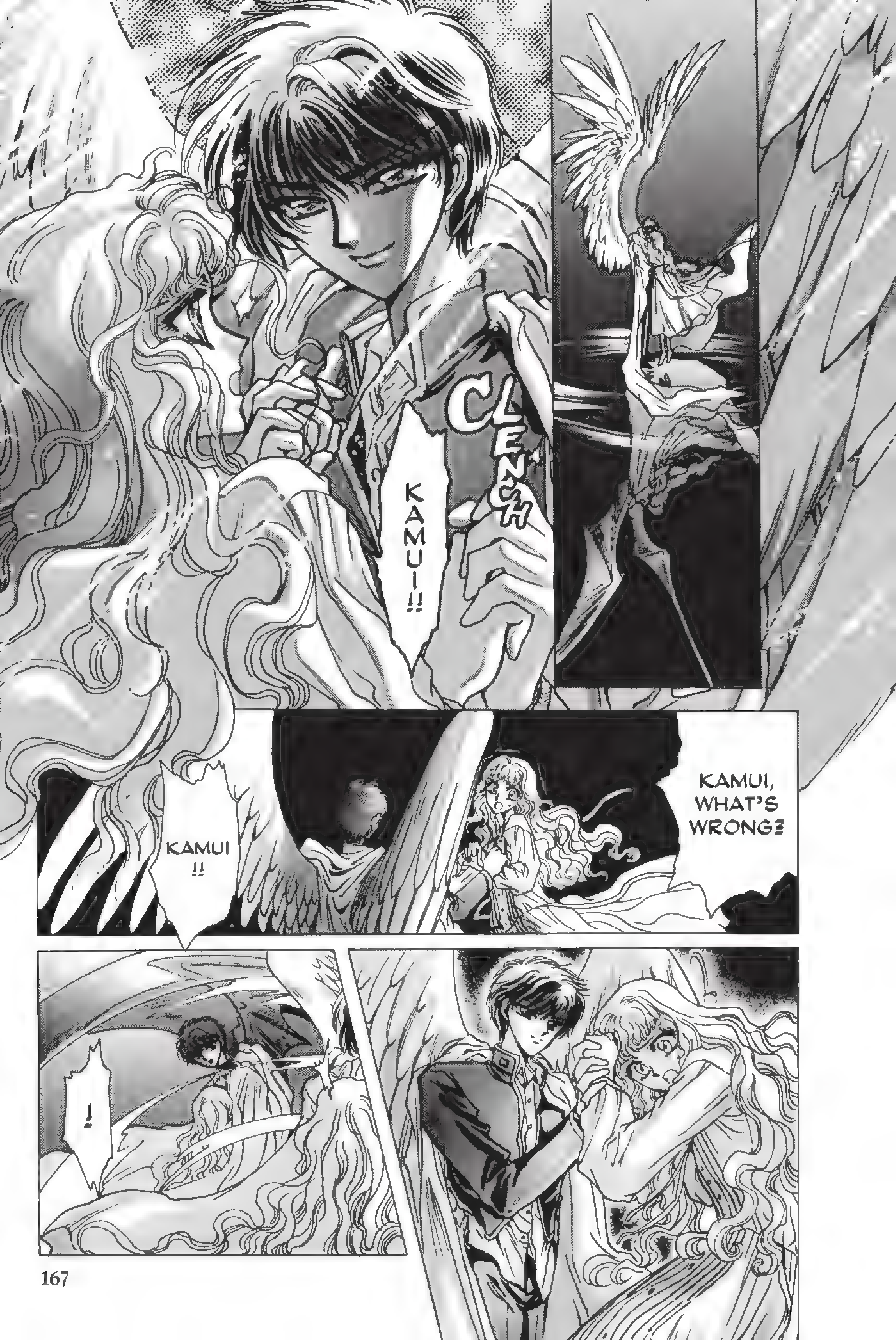

KRAK
SHATTER
THIS DREAM
...

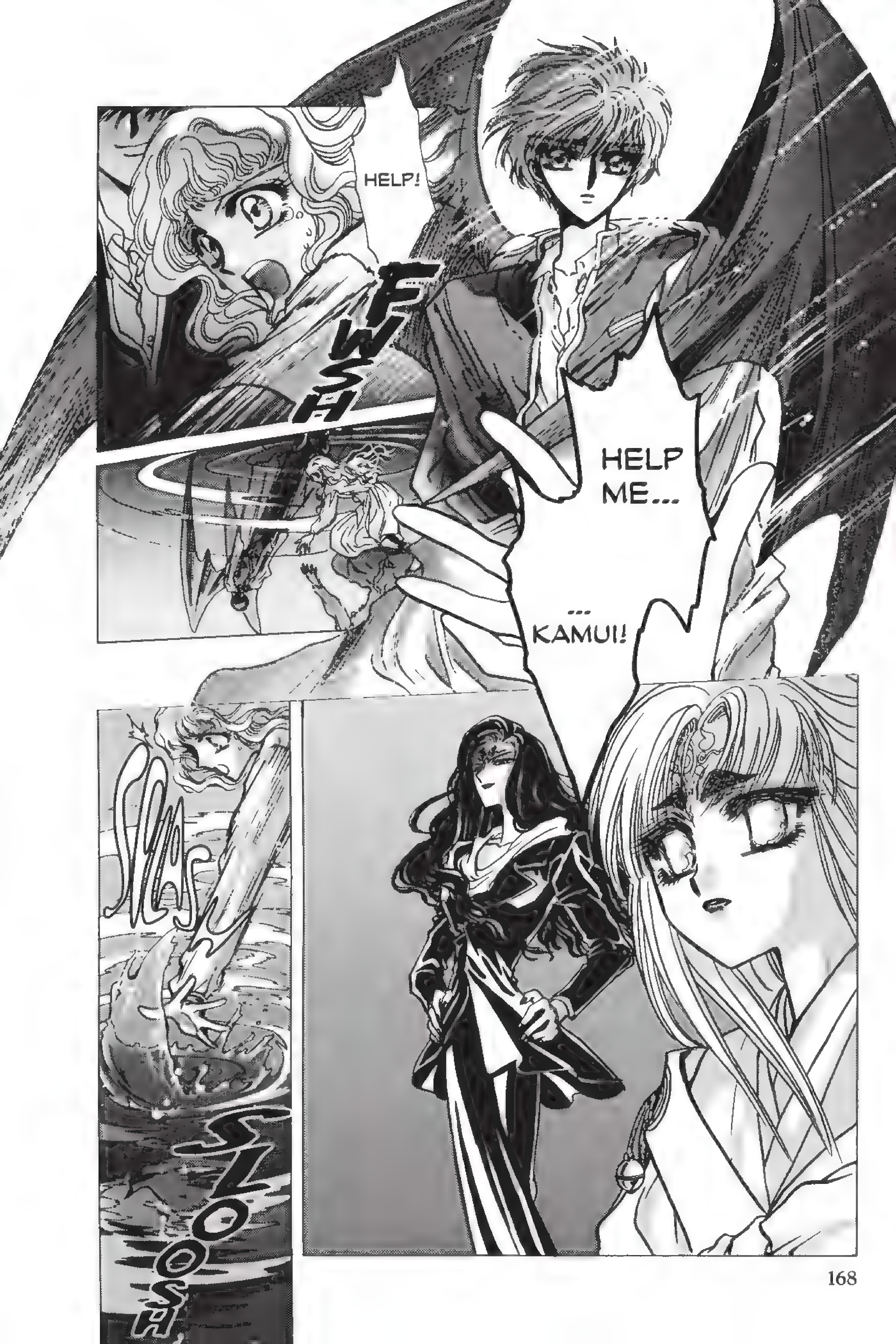

...CARRIES SO MUCH POWER...
...THAT IT NEARLY SUCKED ME IN.

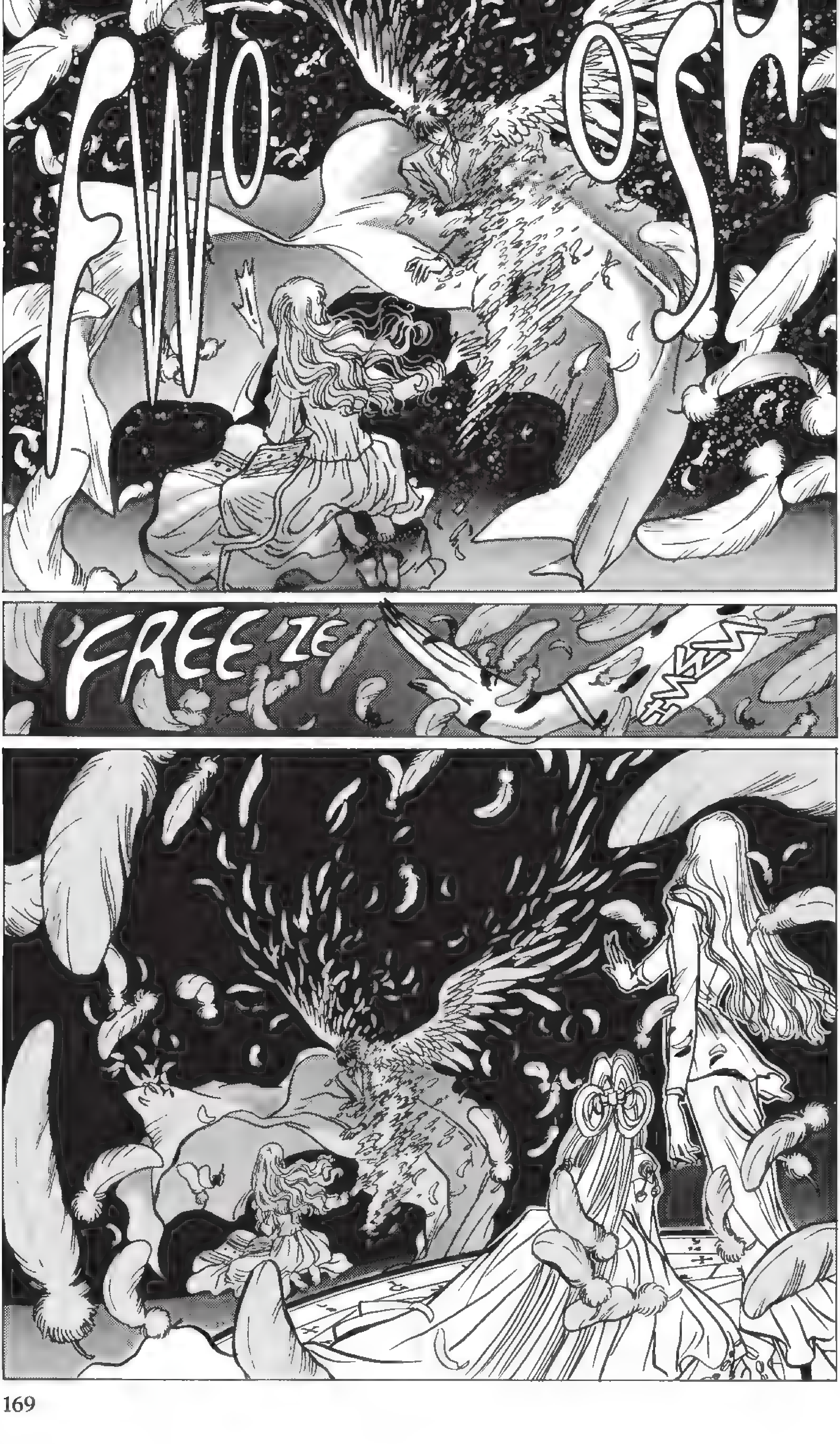

SW SH
SP SH

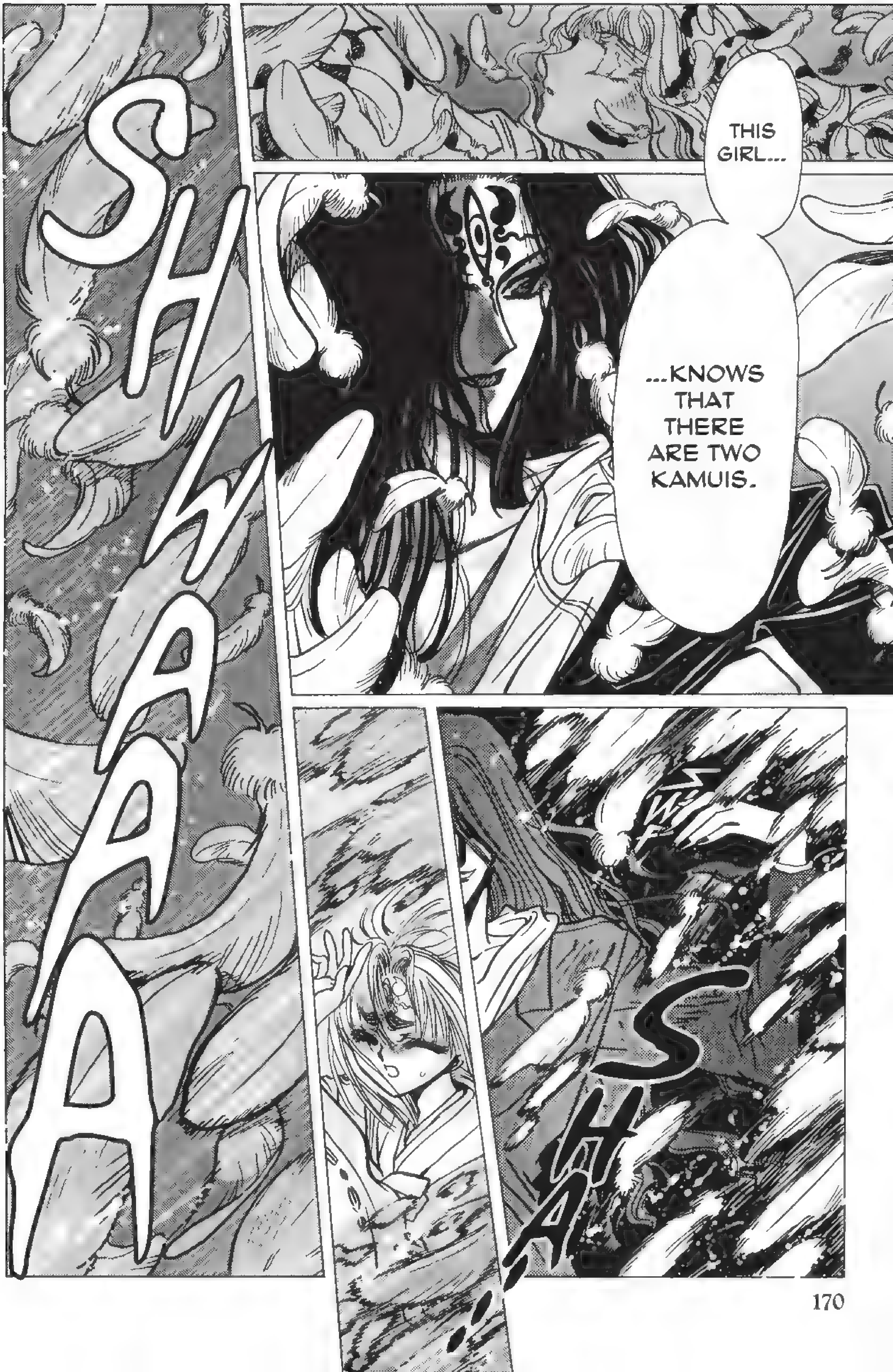

THE DRAGONS OF HEAVEN...
...AND THE DRAGONS OF EARTH.
THE SEVEN SEALS...
...AND THE SEVEN ANGELS.

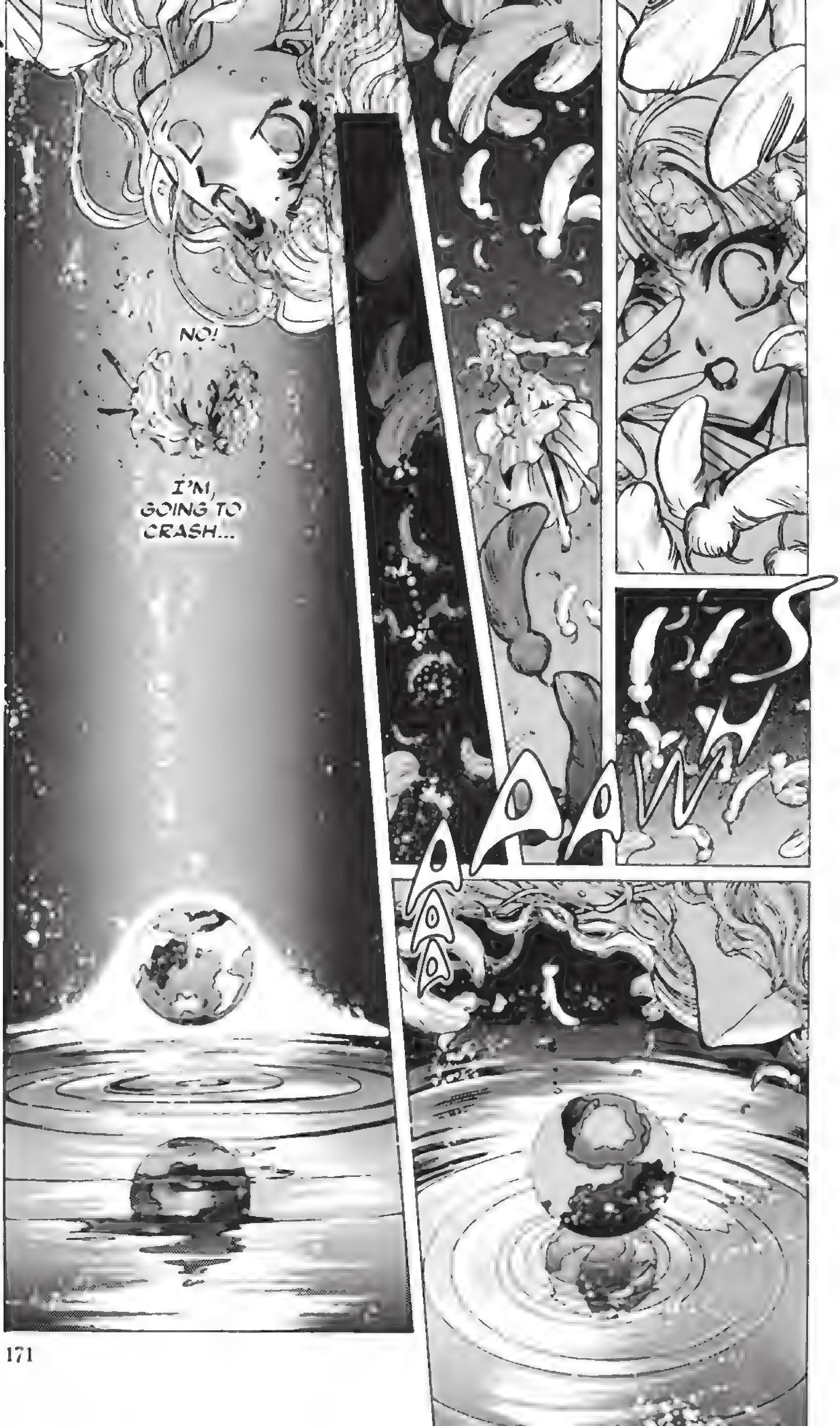

ALL THOSE WHO ARE CONNECTED TO THE END OF THE WORLD...
...BEGIN TO GATHER IN TOKYO.
AND THERE, THEY WILL DECIDE...
...THE FUTURE OF THIS WORLD.

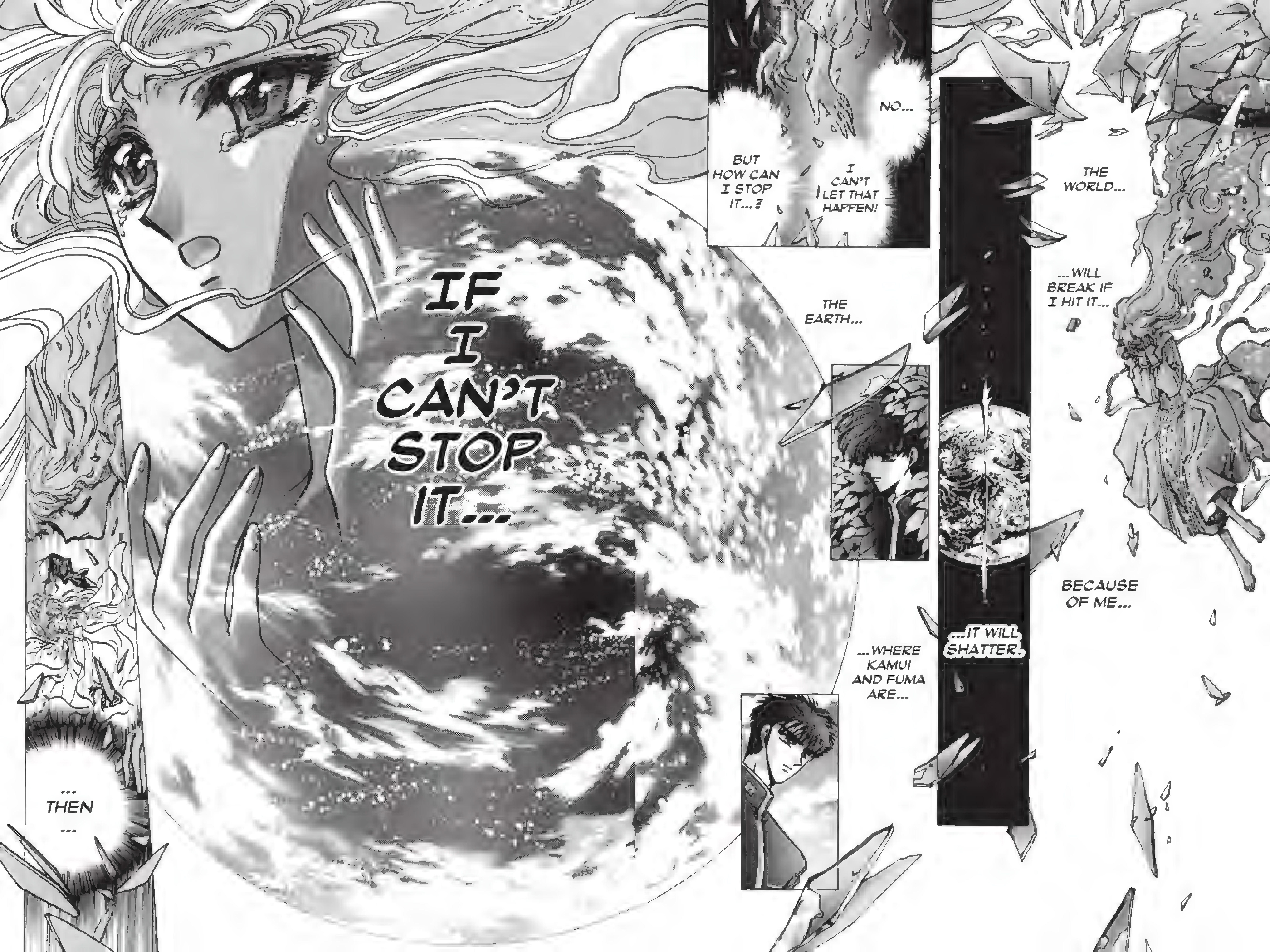

KAMUI!!
CLENCH
KAMUI, WHAT'S WRONG?
KAMUI !!
!

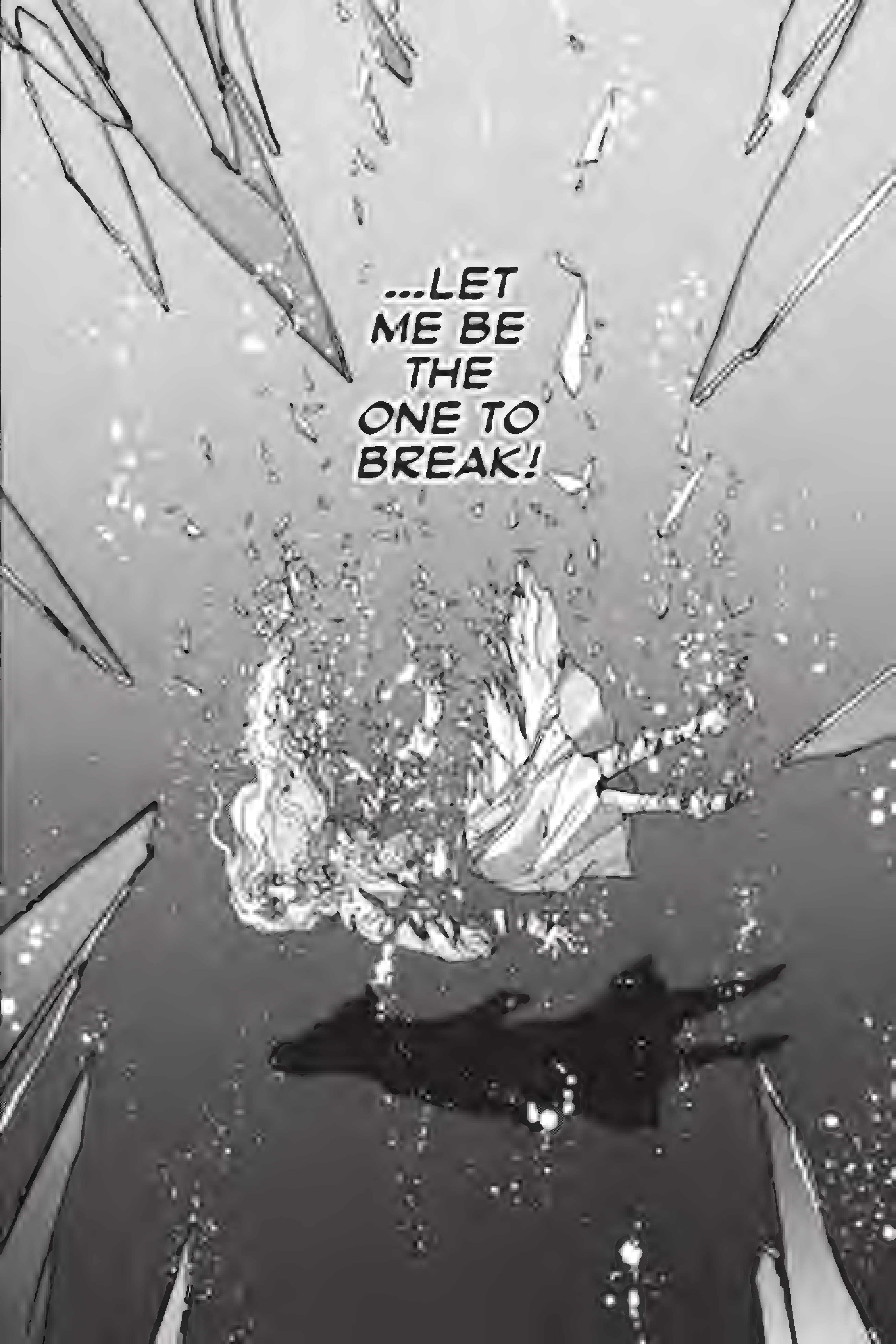

HELP!
FWSH
HELP ME...
...KAMUI!
SPLASH
SLOOSH

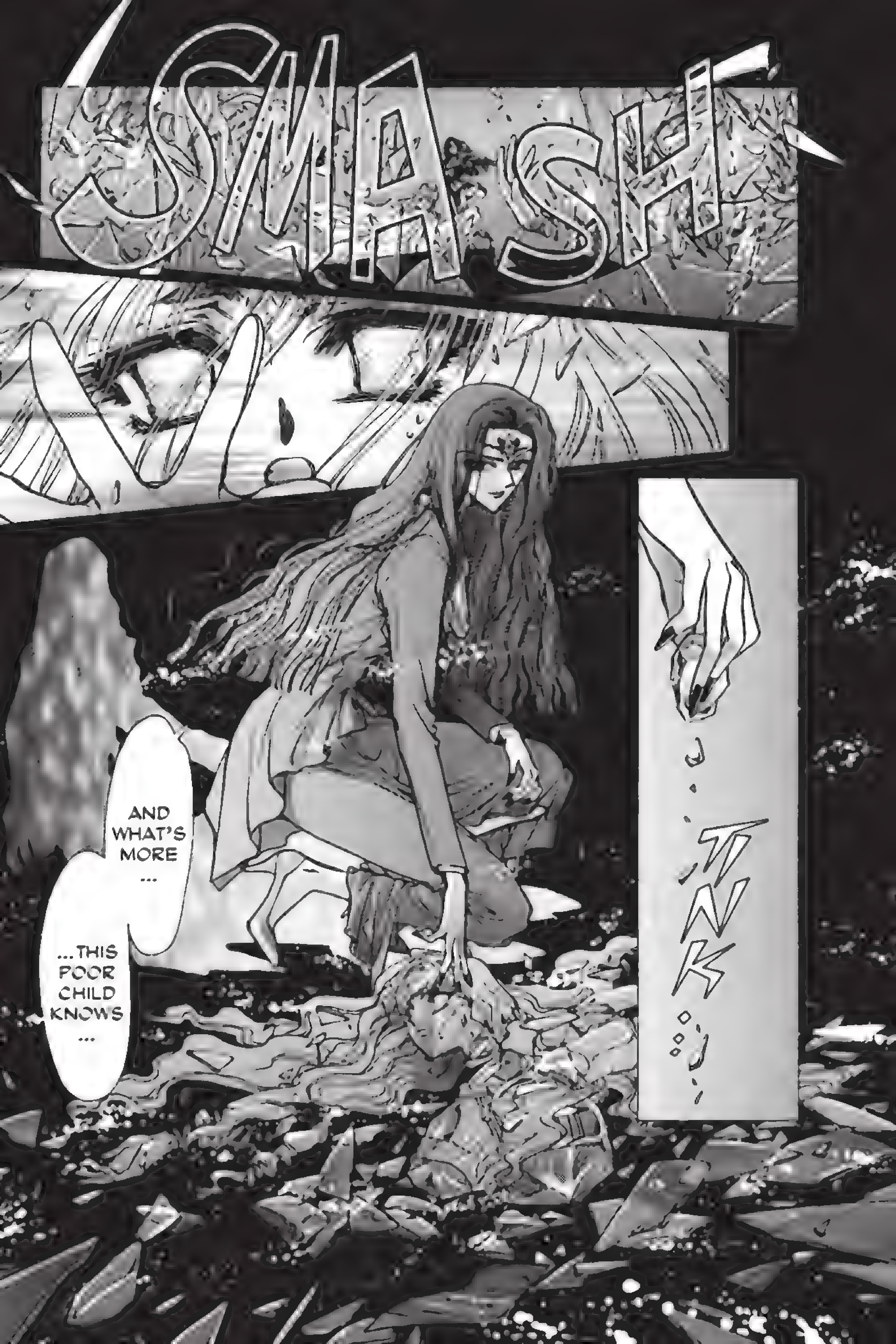

FWOOSH
FREEZE

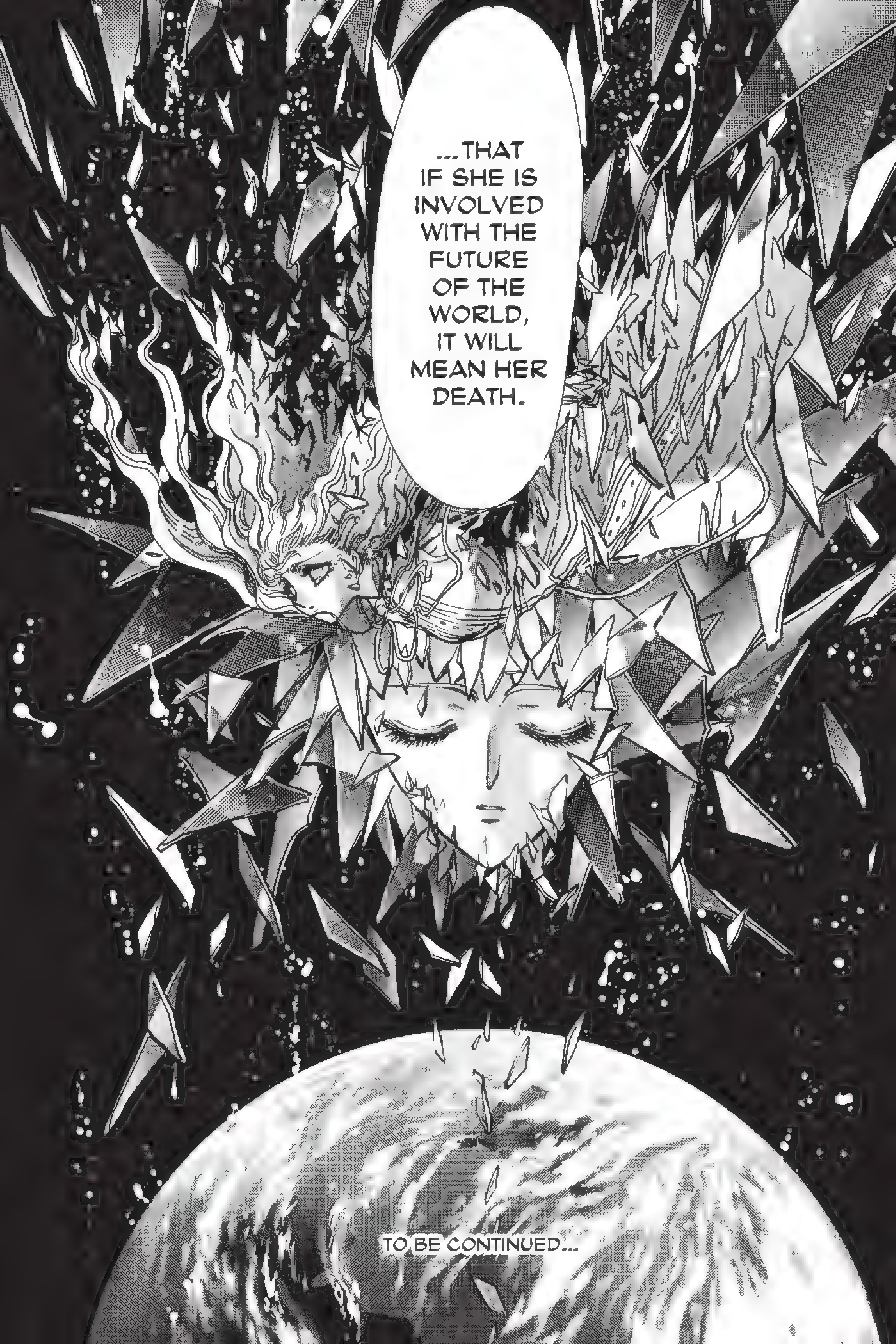

THIS GIRL...
...KNOWS THAT THERE ARE TWO KAMUIS.
SWA
SHAA
SHWAAAAA


NO!
I'M, GOING TO CRASH...
AAAAAWHIS


NO...
I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN!
BUT HOW CAN I STOP IT...?
THE WORLD...
...WILL BREAK IF I HIT IT...
BECAUSE OF ME...
THE EARTH...
...WHERE KAMUI AND FUMA ARE...
...IT WILL SHATTER.
IF I CAN'T STOP IT...
... THEN ...


...LET ME BE THE ONE TO BREAK!

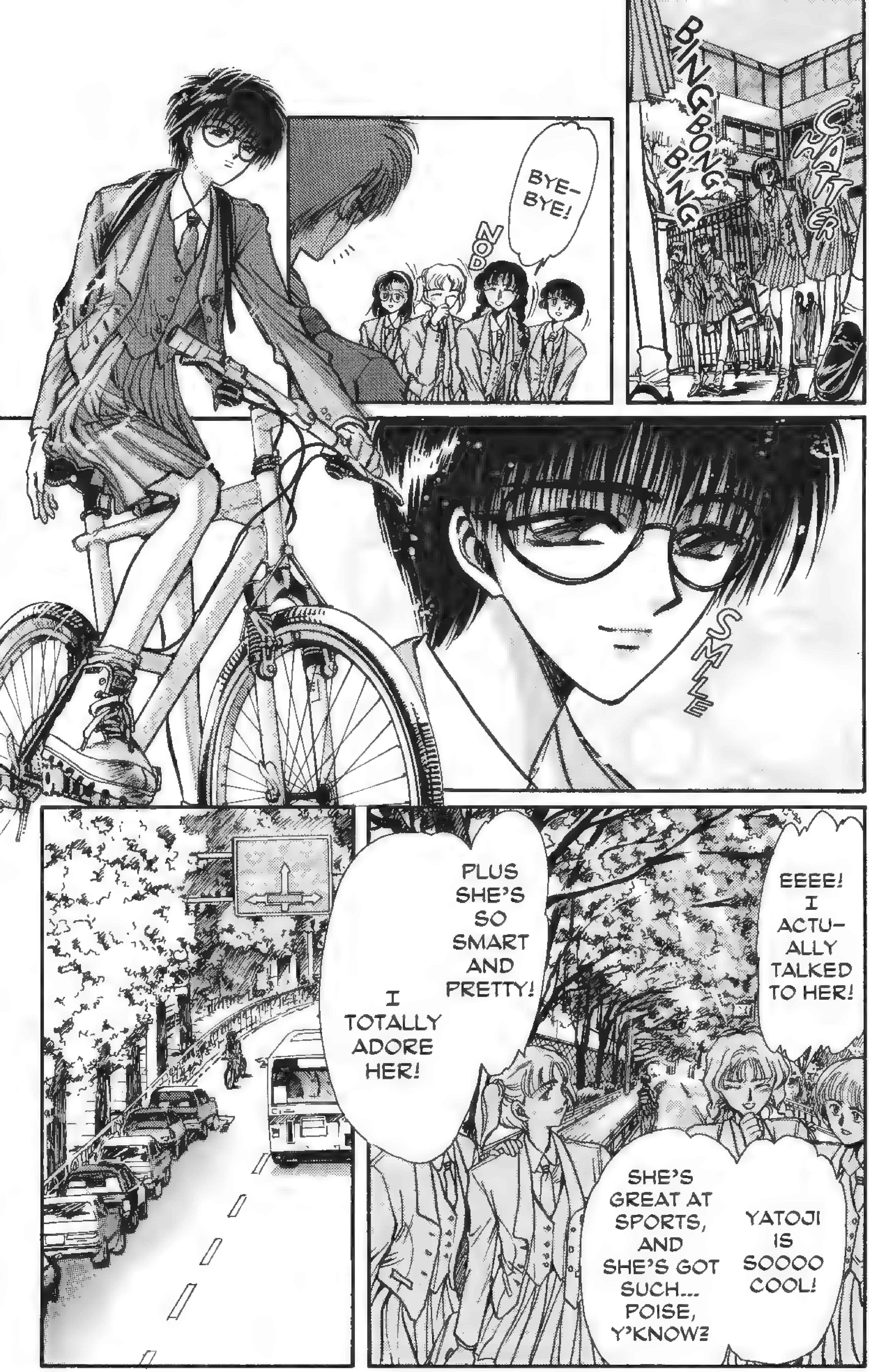

SMASH
TINK
AND WHAT'S MORE ...
...THIS POOR CHILD KNOWS ...

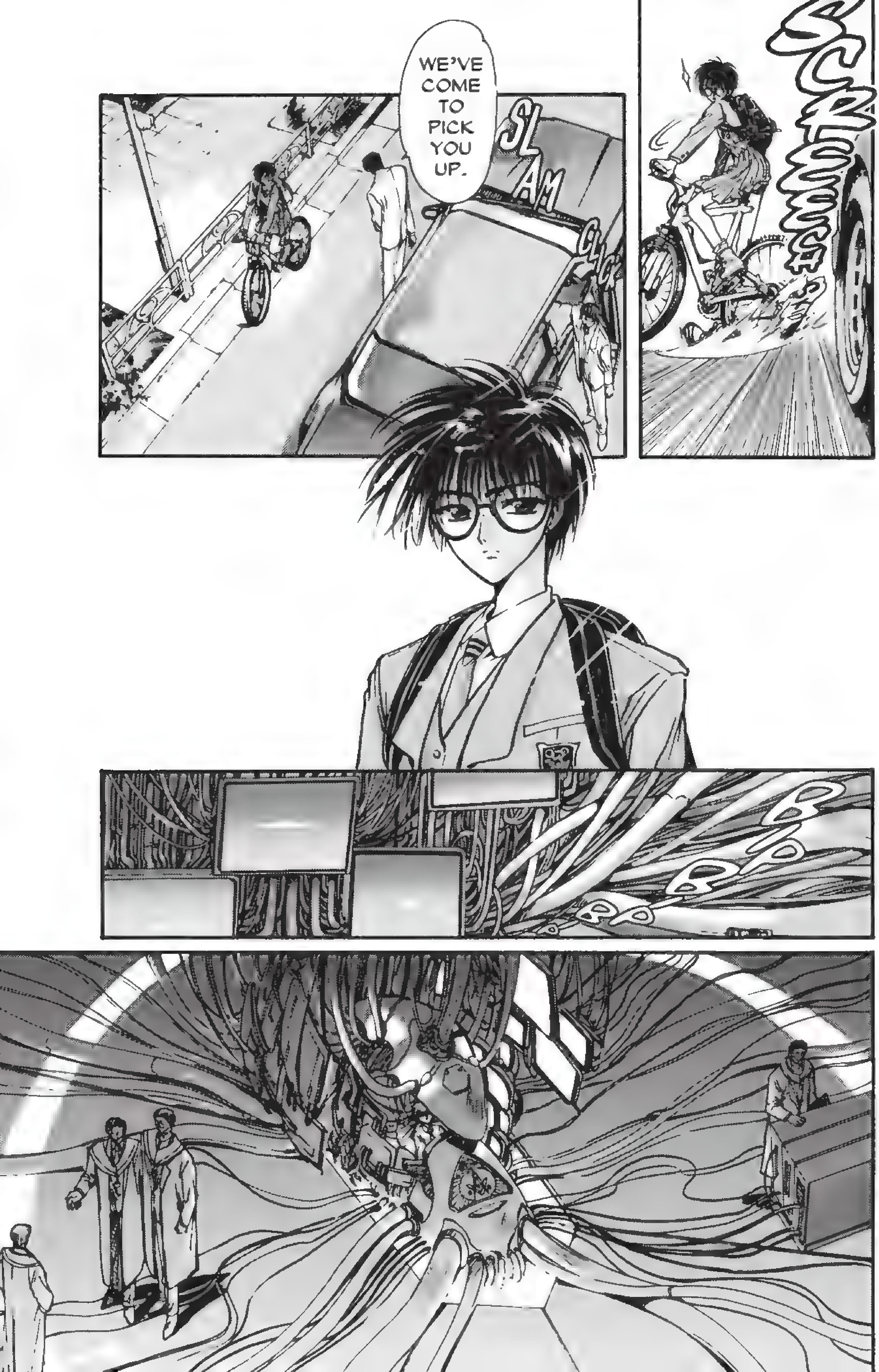

...THAT IF SHE IS INVOLVED WITH THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD, IT WILL MEAN HER DEATH.
TO BE CONTINUED...

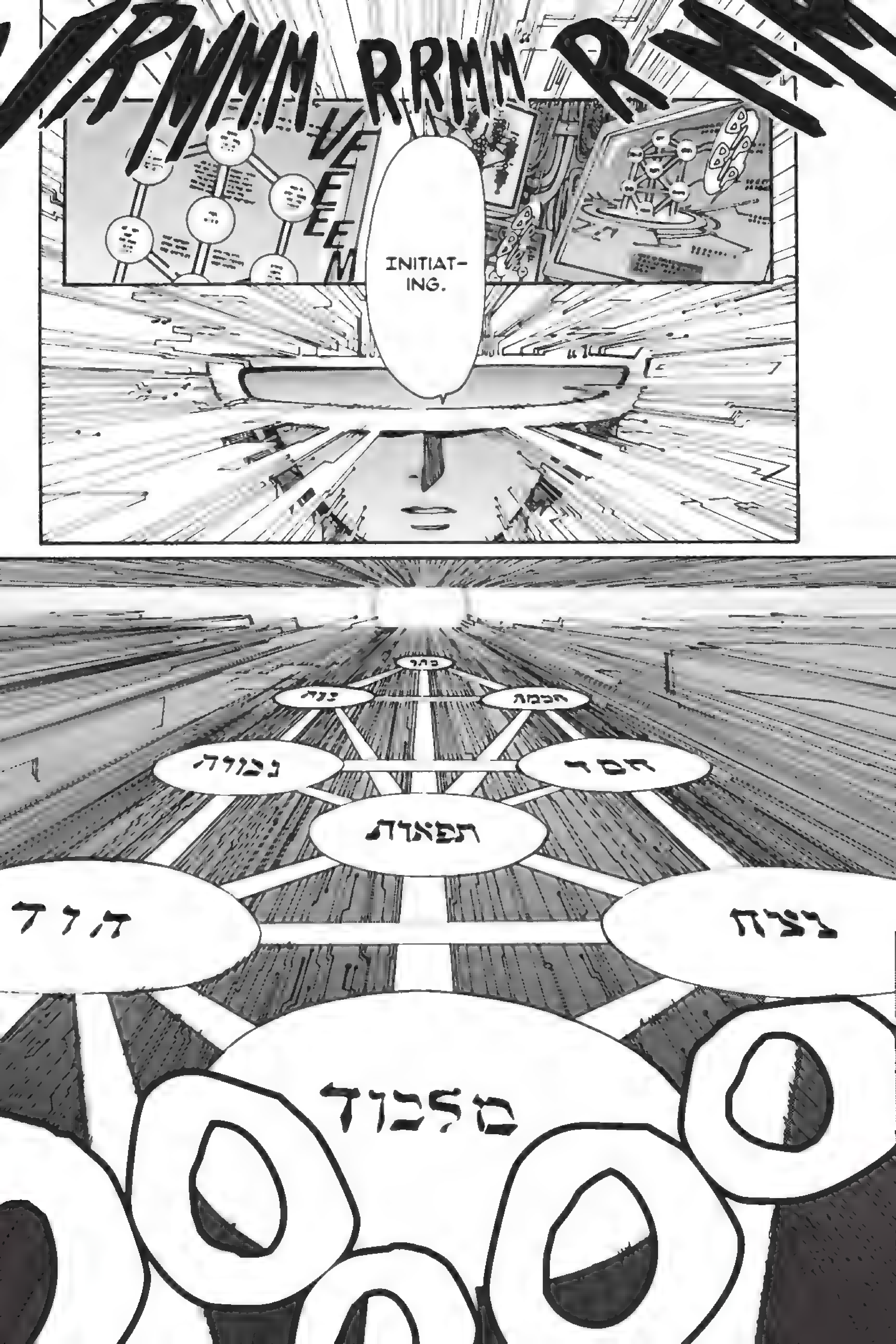
X

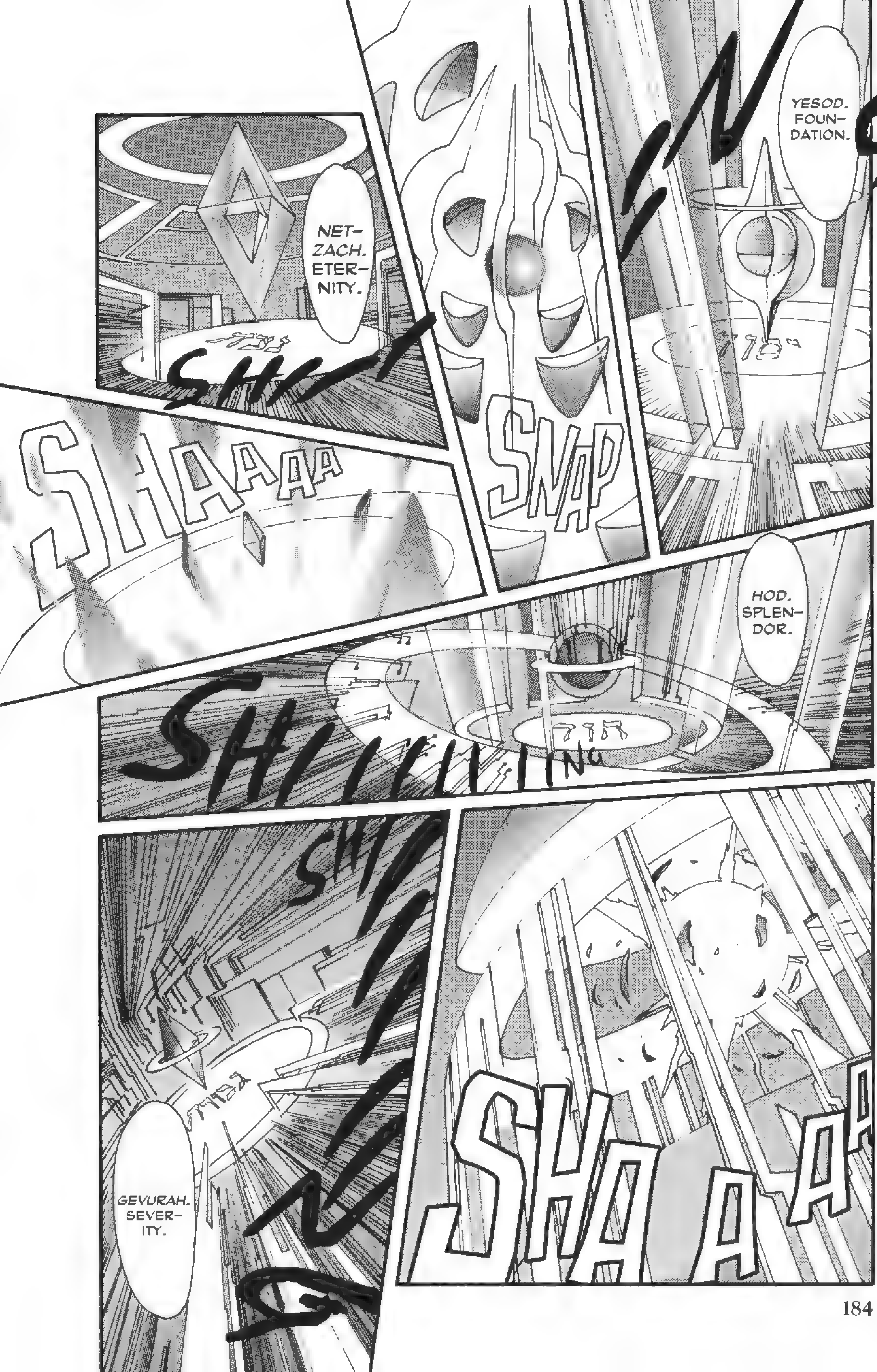
X

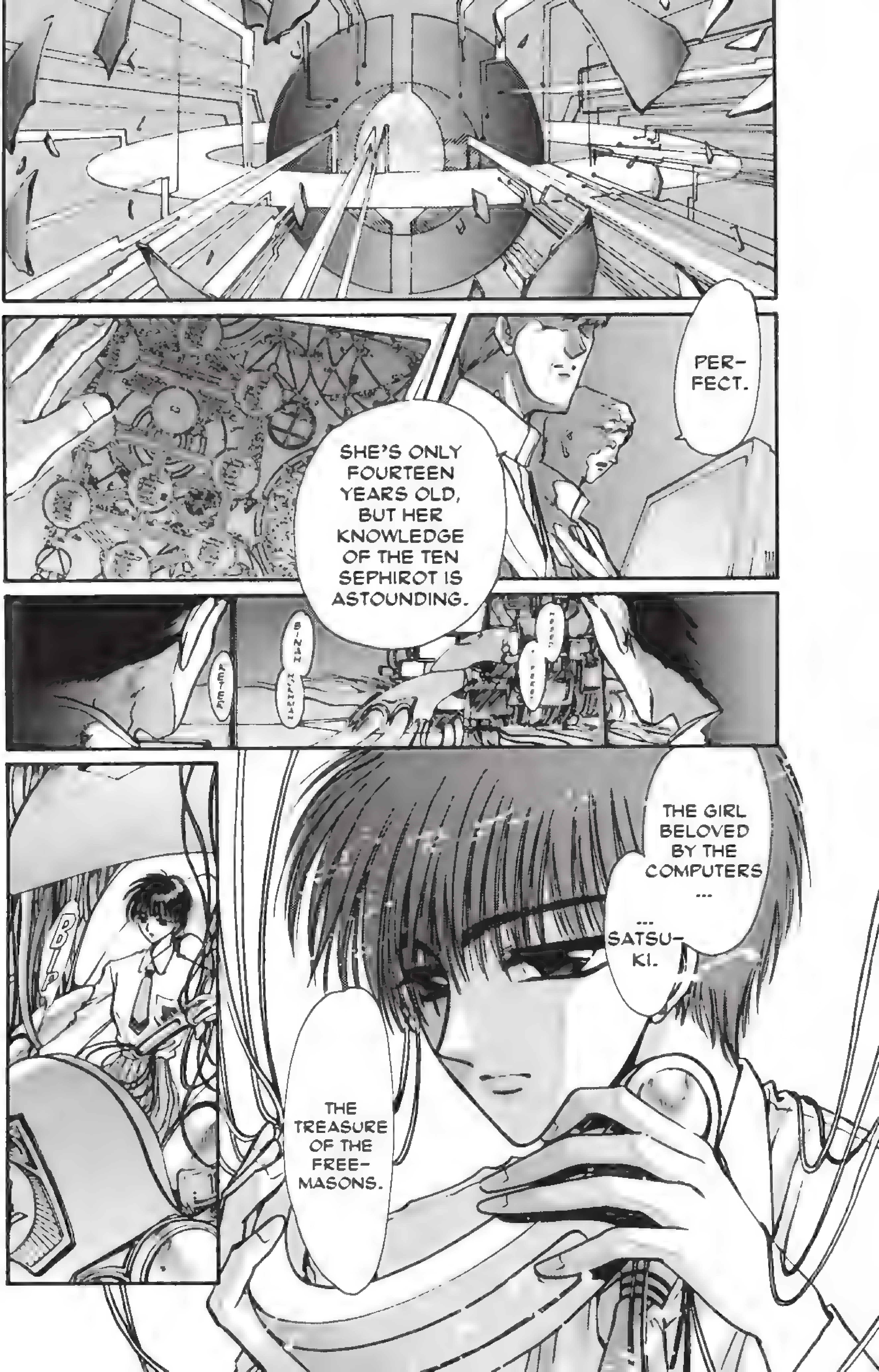
SATSUKI YATOJI

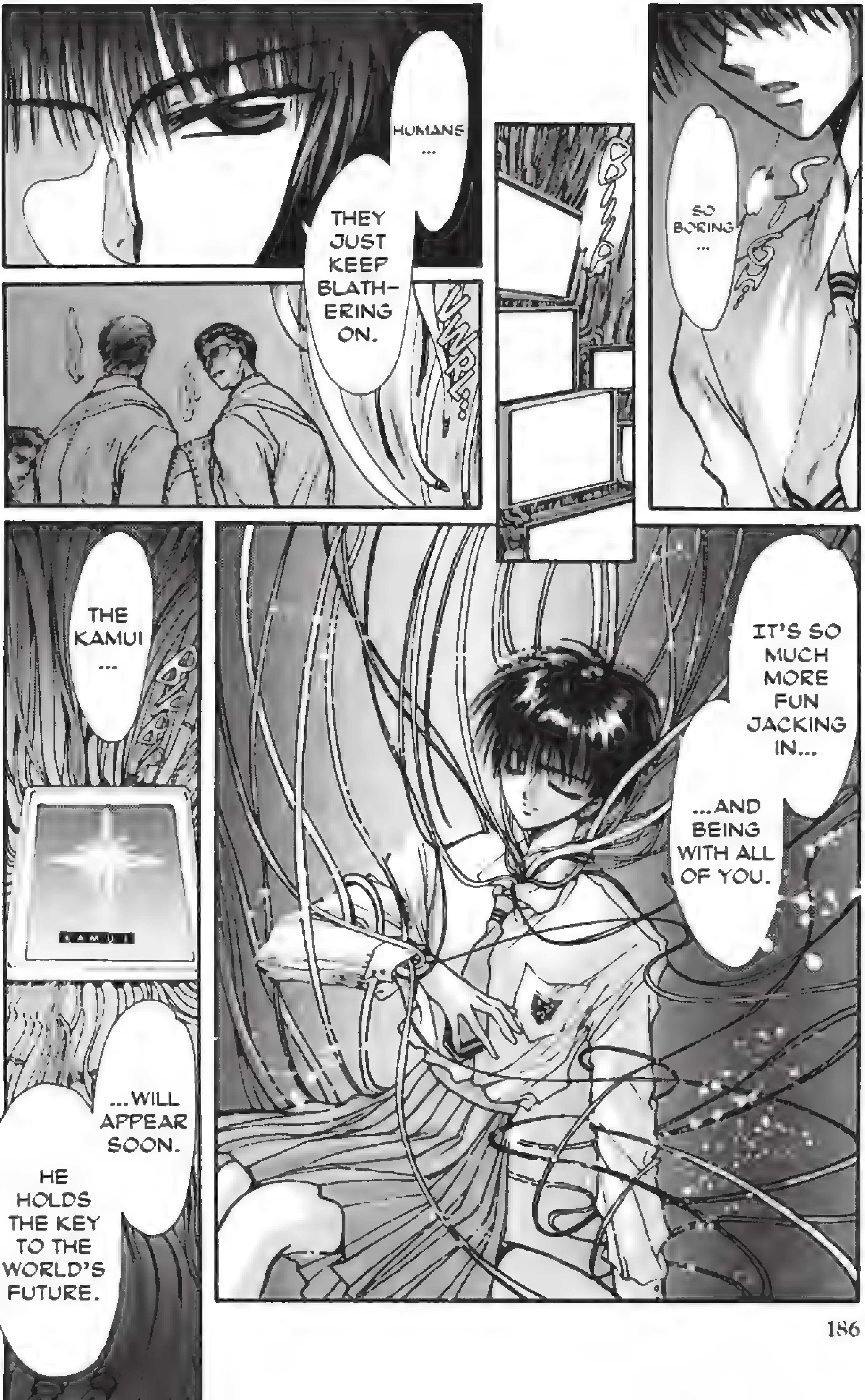

BING BONG BING
CHATTER
NOD
BYE-BYE!
SMILE
EEEE! I ACTUALLY TALKED TO HER!
PLUS SHE'S SO SMART AND PRETTY!
I TOTALLY ADORE HER!
YATOJI IS SOOOO COOL!
SHE'S GREAT AT SPORTS, AND SHE'S GOT SUCH... POISE, Y'KNOW?

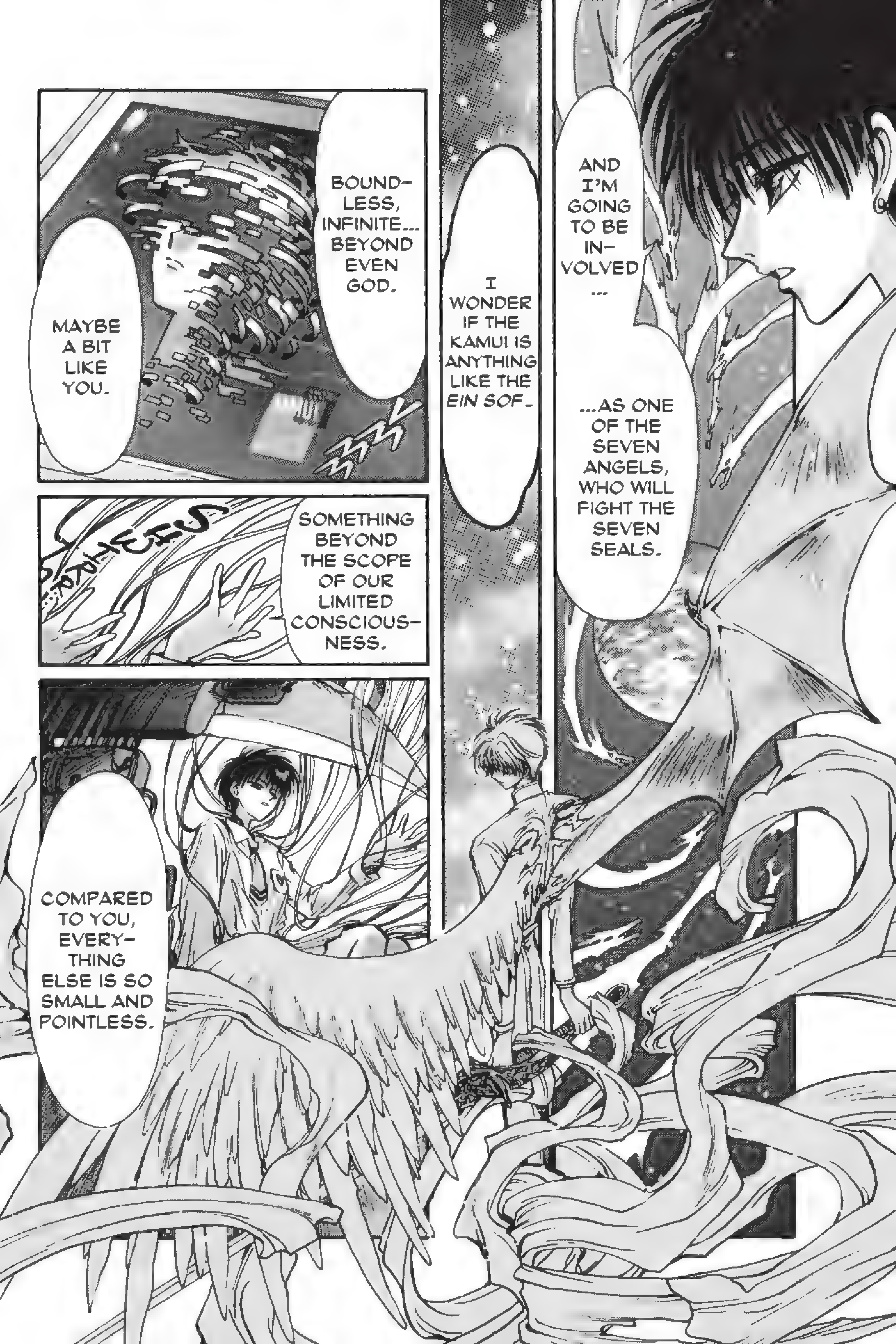

SCREEEECH
WE'VE COME TO PICK YOU UP.
SLAM
CLICK
B B B BP

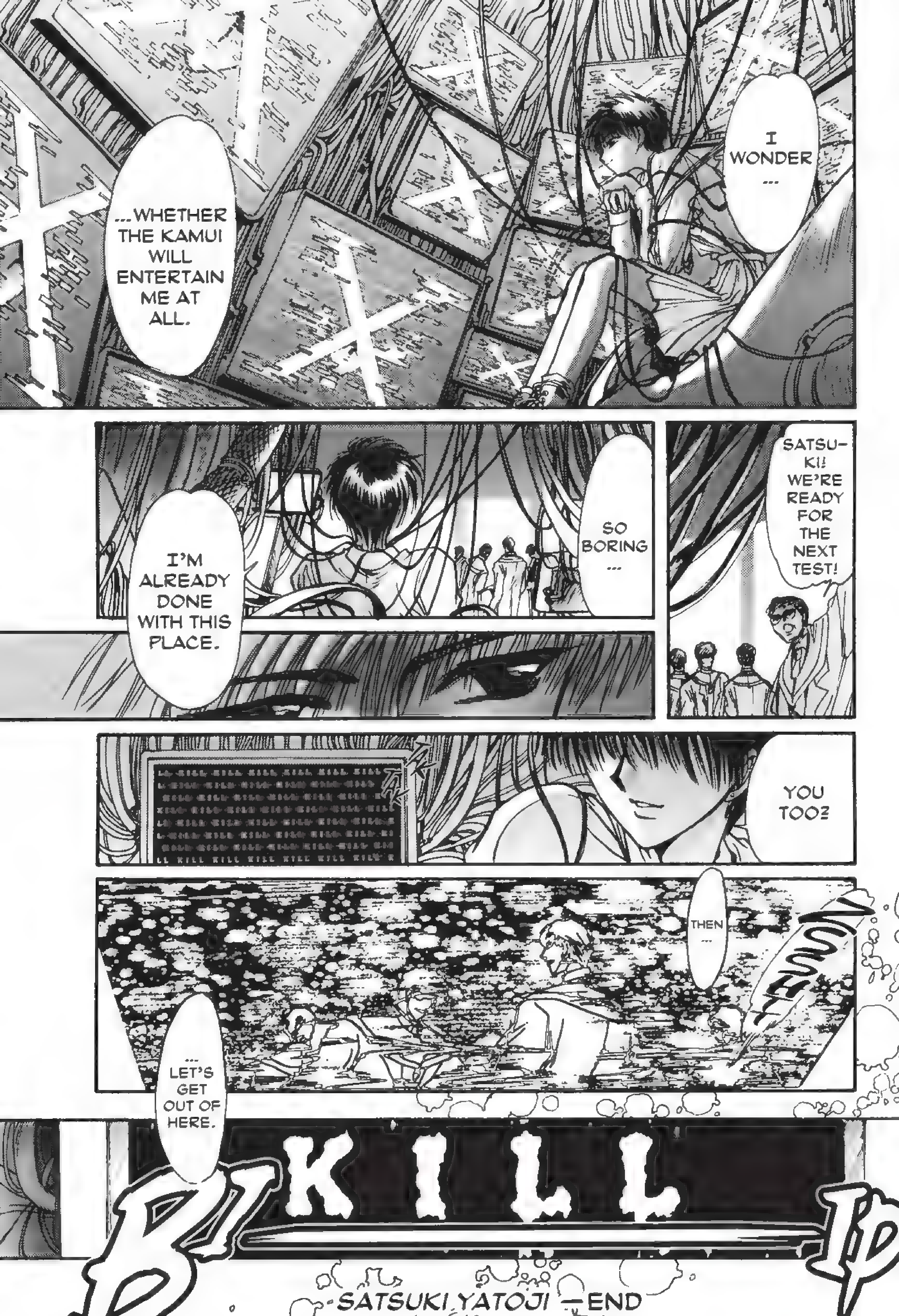

RMMM RRMM R
VEEEEN
INITIATING.
כתר
חכמה
בינה
חסד
גבורה
תפארת
נצח
הוד
מלכות


YESOD. FOUNDATION.
NETZACH. ETERNITY.
SHT
SNAP
SHAAAA
HOD. SPLENDOR.
SHIIIIIING
GEVURAH. SEVERITY.
SHAAAA


PERFECT.
SHE'S ONLY FOURTEEN YEARS OLD, BUT HER KNOWLEDGE OF THE TEN SEPHIROT IS ASTOUNDING.
BINAH
KETER
THE GIRL BELOVED BY THE COMPUTERS...
...SATSUKI.
THE TREASURE OF THE FREEMASONS.
BLIP


SO BORING...
HUMANS... THEY JUST KEEP BLATHERING ON.
VWRL...
IT'S SO MUCH MORE FUN JACKING IN...
...AND BEING WITH ALL OF YOU.
THE KAMUI...
KAMUI
...WILL APPEAR SOON.
HE HOLDS THE KEY TO THE WORLD'S FUTURE.


AND I'M GOING TO BE INVOLVED...
...AS ONE OF THE SEVEN ANGELS, WHO WILL FIGHT THE SEVEN SEALS.
I WONDER IF THE KAMUI IS ANYTHING LIKE THE *EIN SOF*.
BOUNDLESS, INFINITE... BEYOND EVEN GOD.
MAYBE A BIT LIKE YOU.
SOMETHING BEYOND THE SCOPE OF OUR LIMITED CONSCIOUSNESS.
COMPARED TO YOU, EVERYTHING ELSE IS SO SMALL AND POINTLESS.


I WONDER ...
...WHETHER THE KAMUI WILL ENTERTAIN ME AT ALL.
SATSUKI! WE'RE READY FOR THE NEXT TEST!
SO BORING ...
I'M ALREADY DONE WITH THIS PLACE.
YOU TOO?
KILL KILL KILL KILL KILL
THEN ...
... LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
KILL

-SATSUKI YATOJI —END

the seven seals

the seven angels

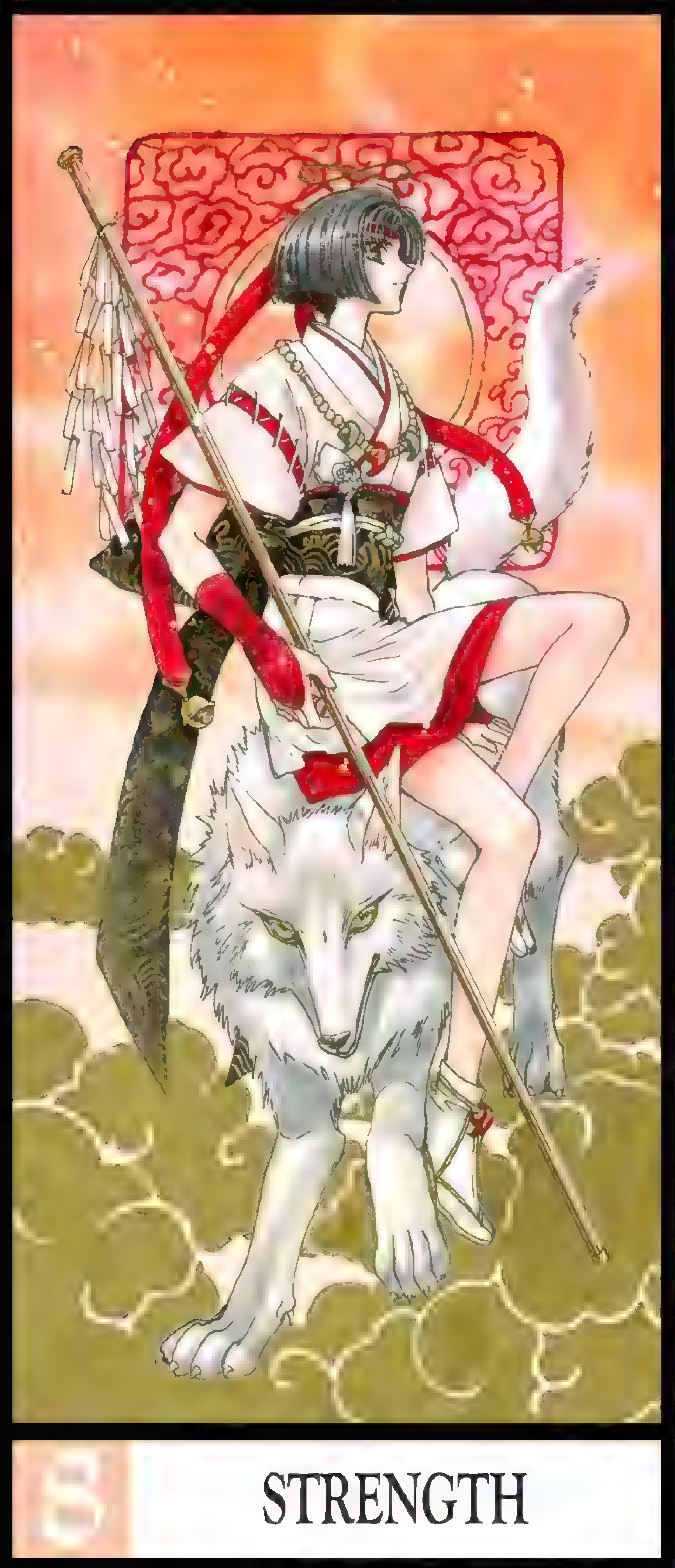
X

VOLUME 3, PART 2

THE SACRED SWORD II

0:7
DESTI
FORE ORD
1999.

X



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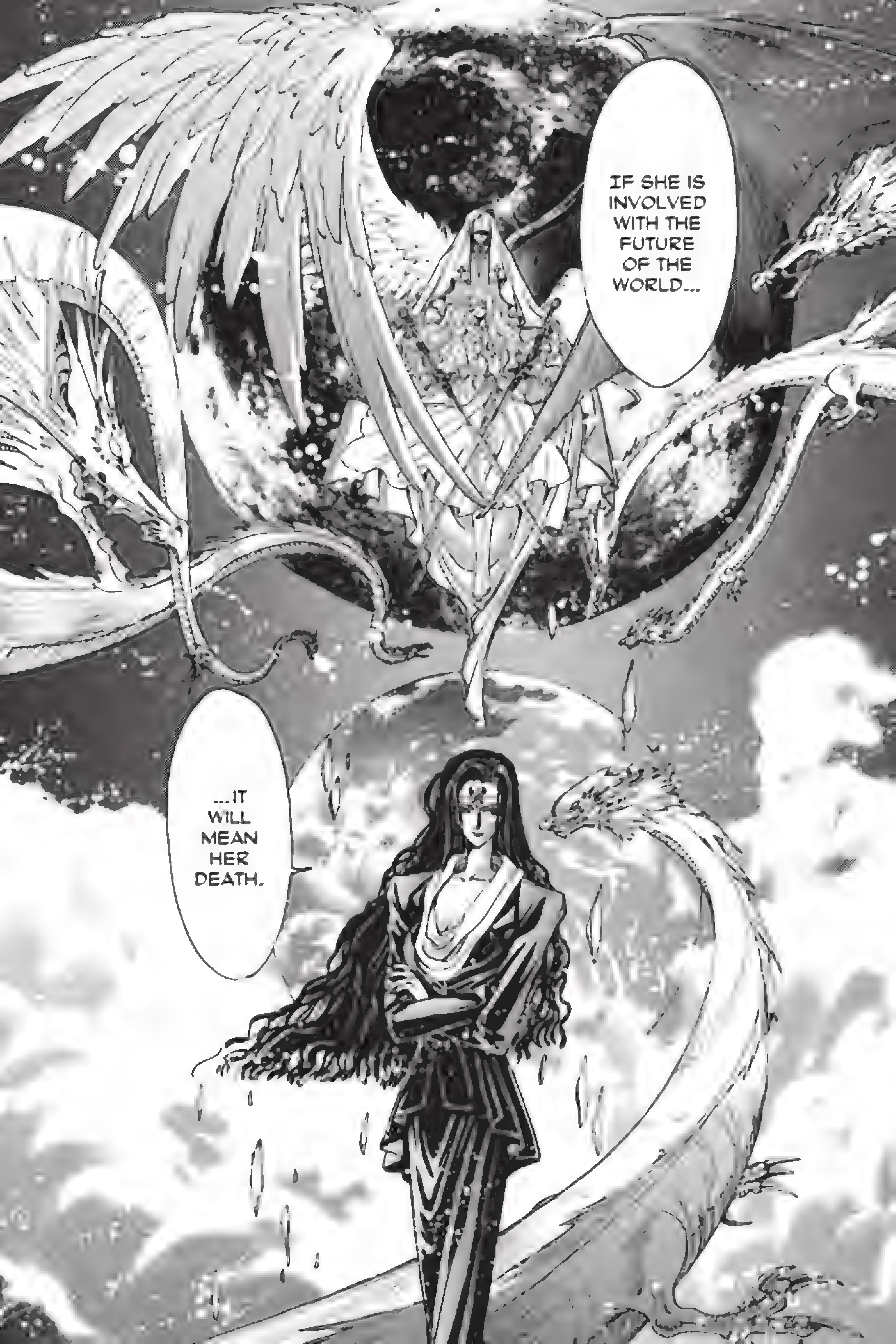
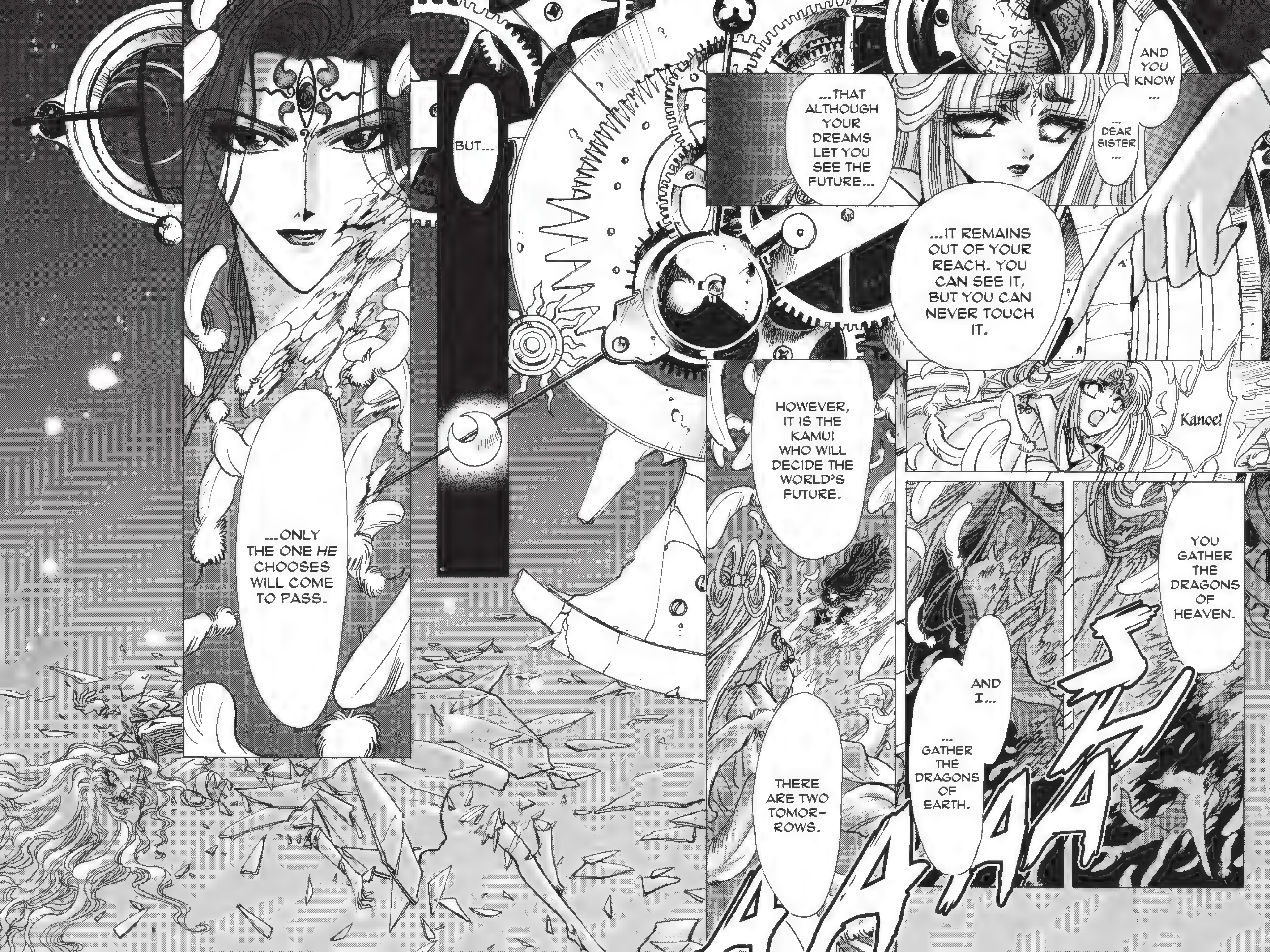
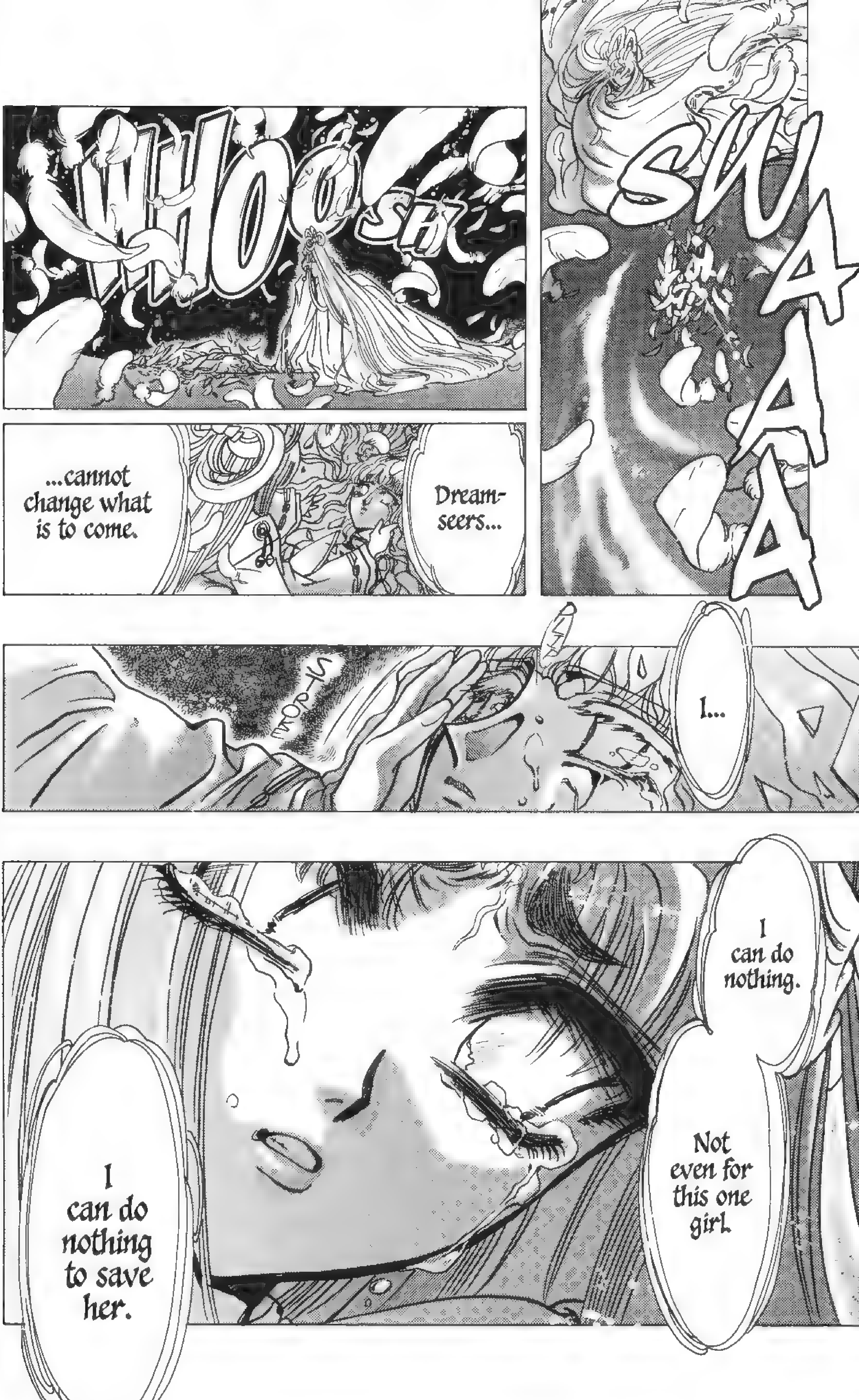
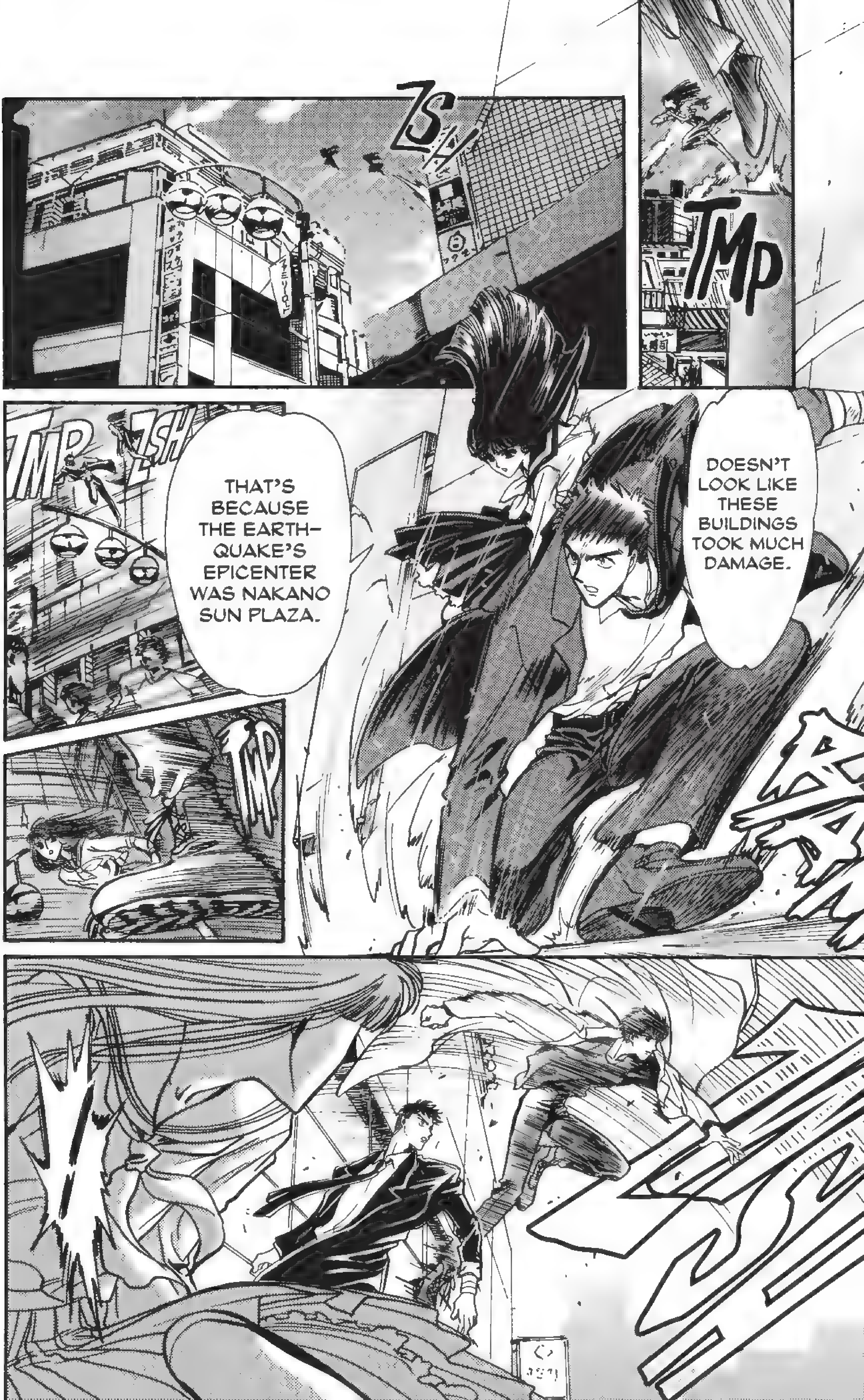
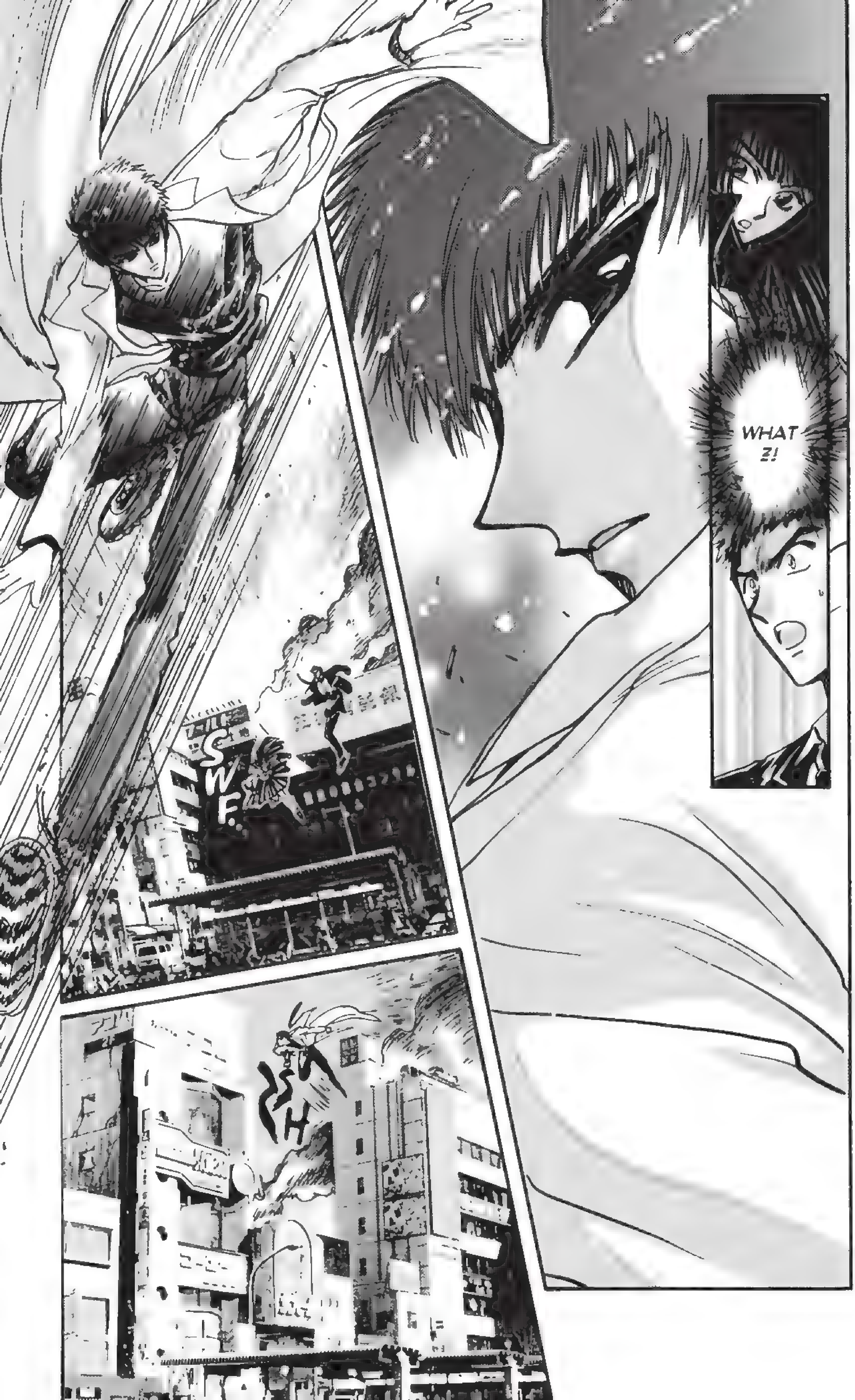
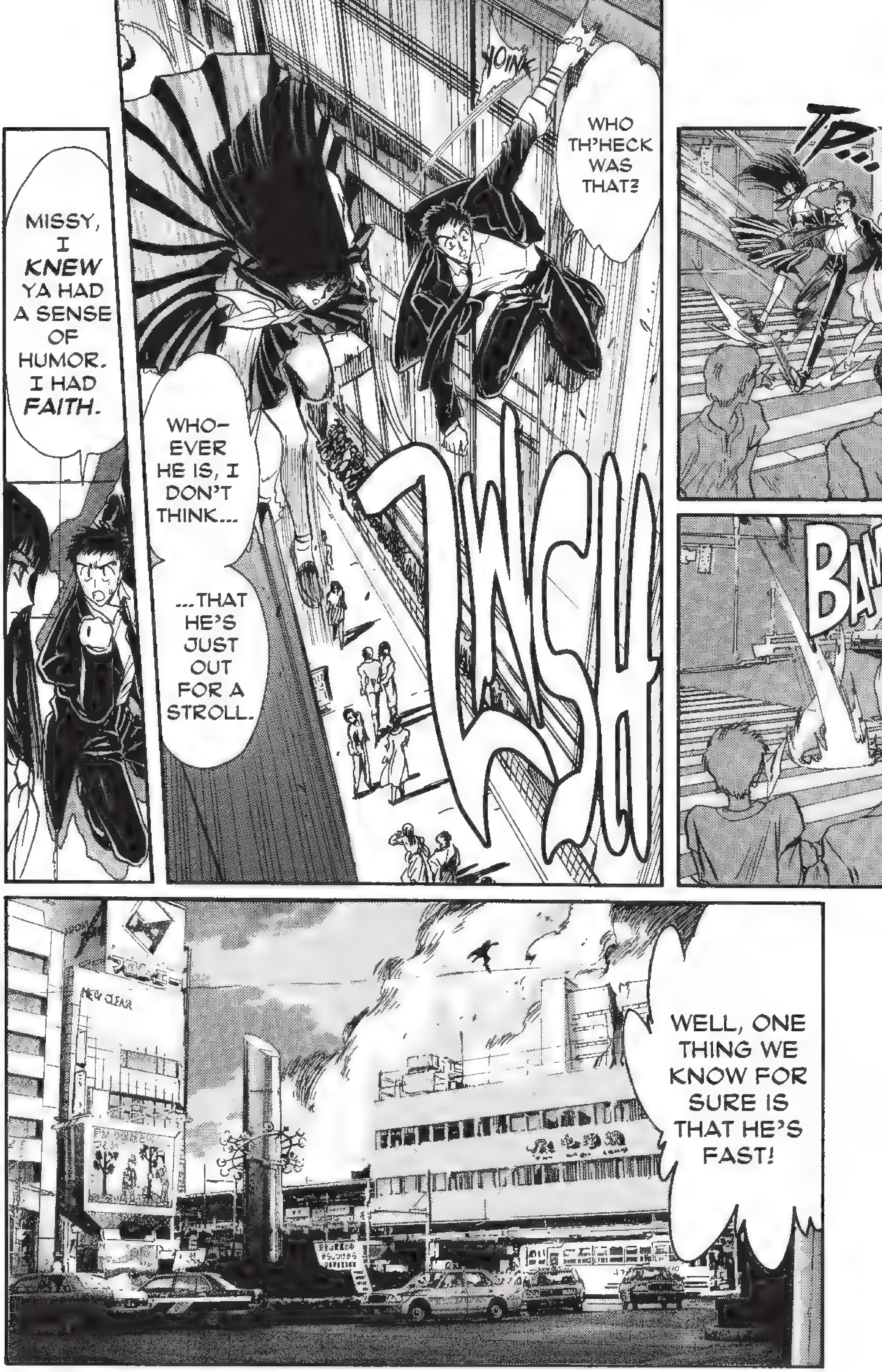

IF SHE IS INVOLVED WITH THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD...
...IT WILL MEAN HER DEATH.

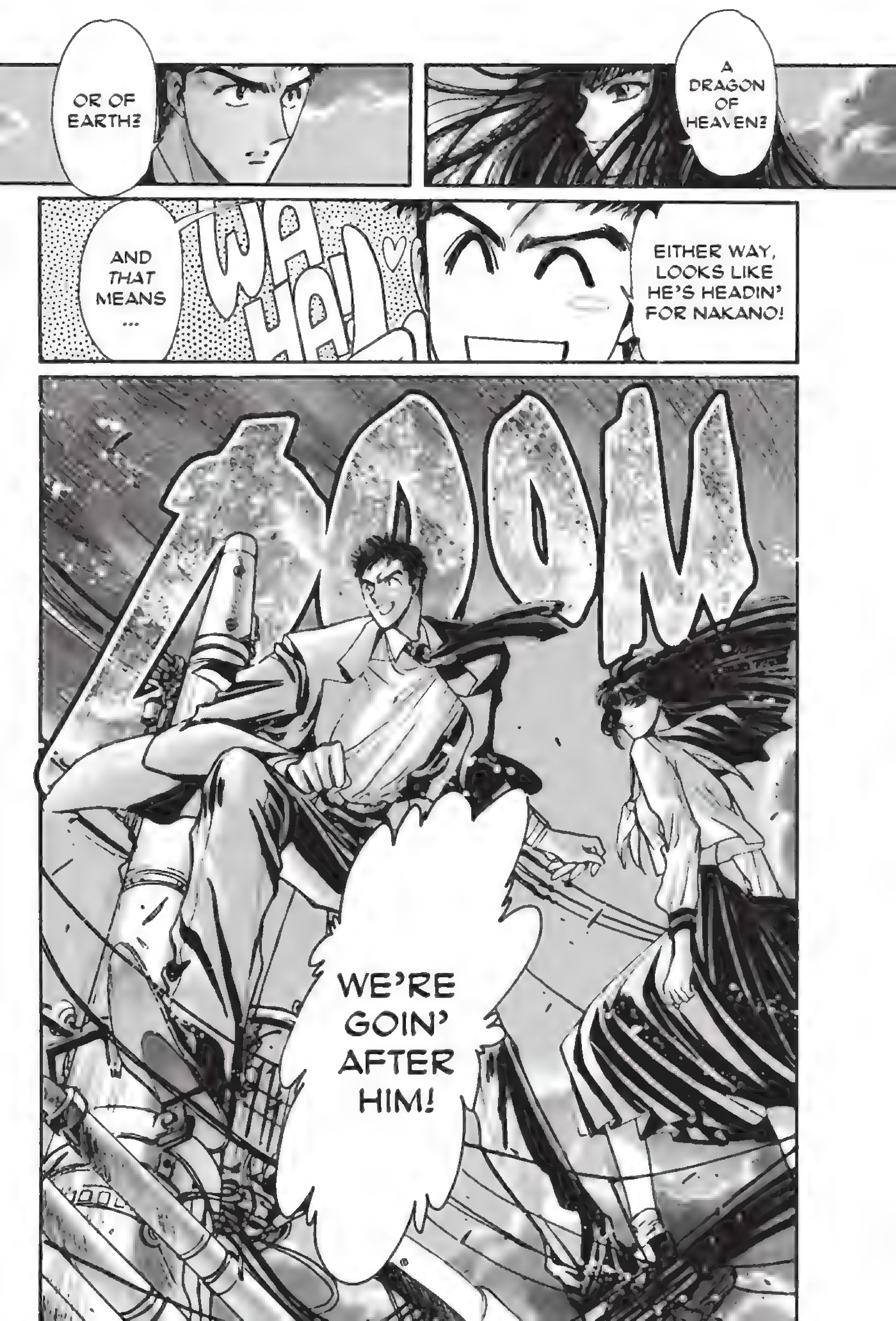

AND YOU KNOW...
...DEAR SISTER...
...THAT ALTHOUGH YOUR DREAMS LET YOU SEE THE FUTURE...
...IT REMAINS OUT OF YOUR REACH. YOU CAN SEE IT, BUT YOU CAN NEVER TOUCH IT.
Kanoe!
HOWEVER, IT IS THE KAMUI WHO WILL DECIDE THE WORLD'S FUTURE.
YOU GATHER THE DRAGONS OF HEAVEN.
AND I...
...GATHER THE DRAGONS OF EARTH.
THERE ARE TWO TOMORROWS.
BUT...
...ONLY THE ONE *HE* CHOOSES WILL COME TO PASS.

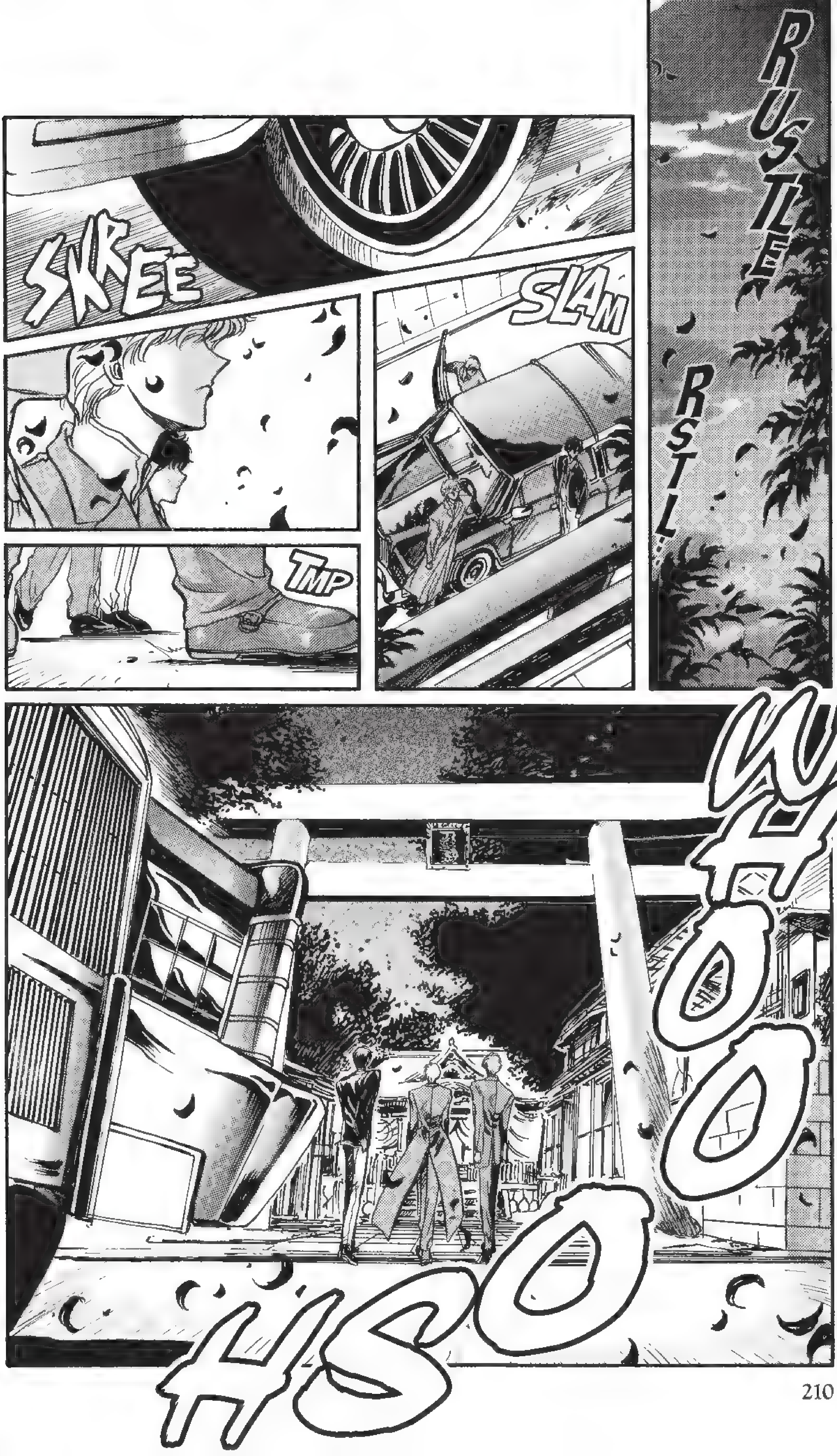

SWAAA
WHOOSH
Dream-seers...
...cannot change what is to come.
I...
STROKE
I can do nothing.
Not even for this one girl.
I can do nothing to save her.

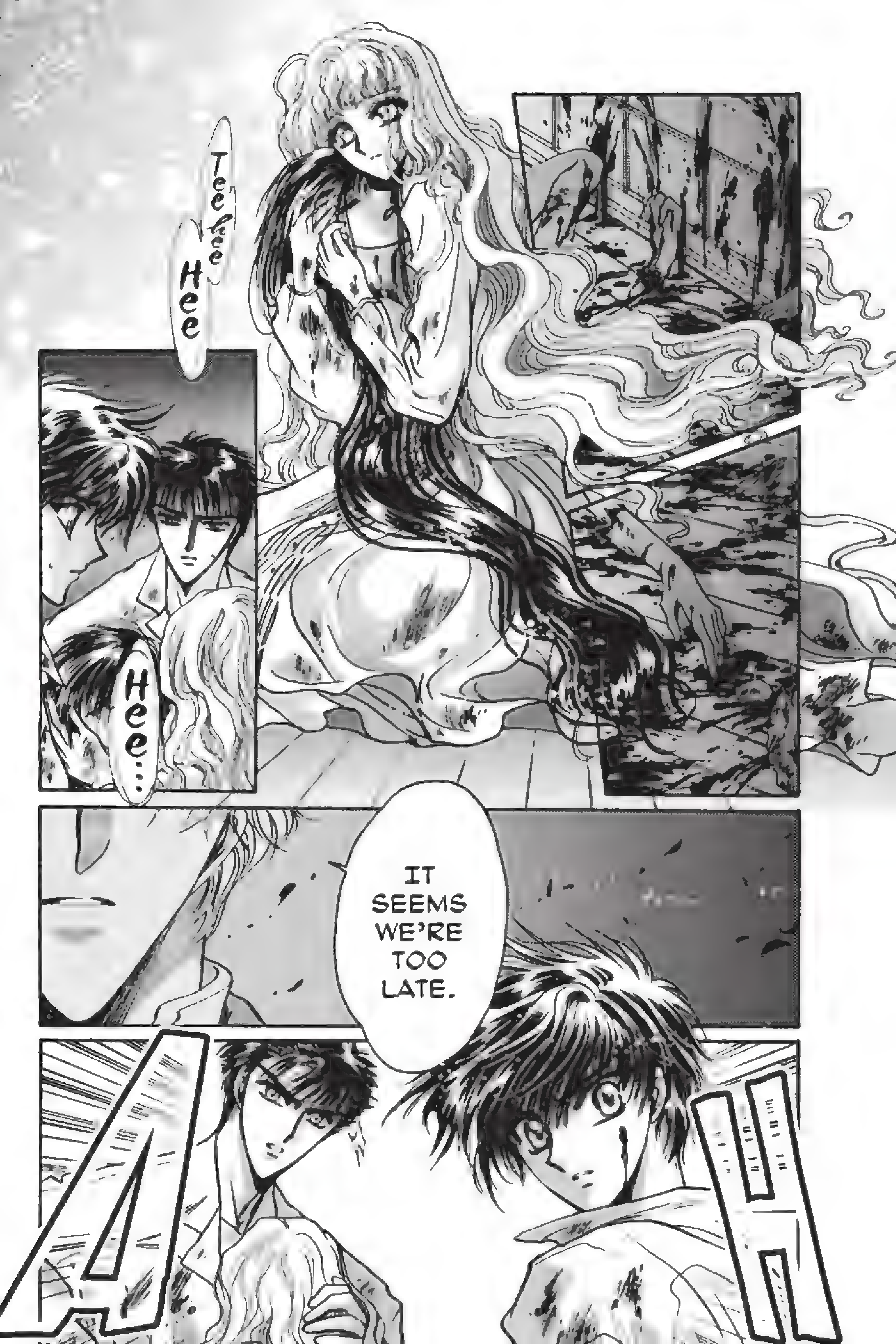
ZSH
TMP
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THESE BUILDINGS TOOK MUCH DAMAGE.
THAT'S BECAUSE THE EARTH-QUAKE'S EPICENTER WAS NAKANO SUN PLAZA.
ZSH
TMP
TMP


WHAT ?!
SWF.
SH

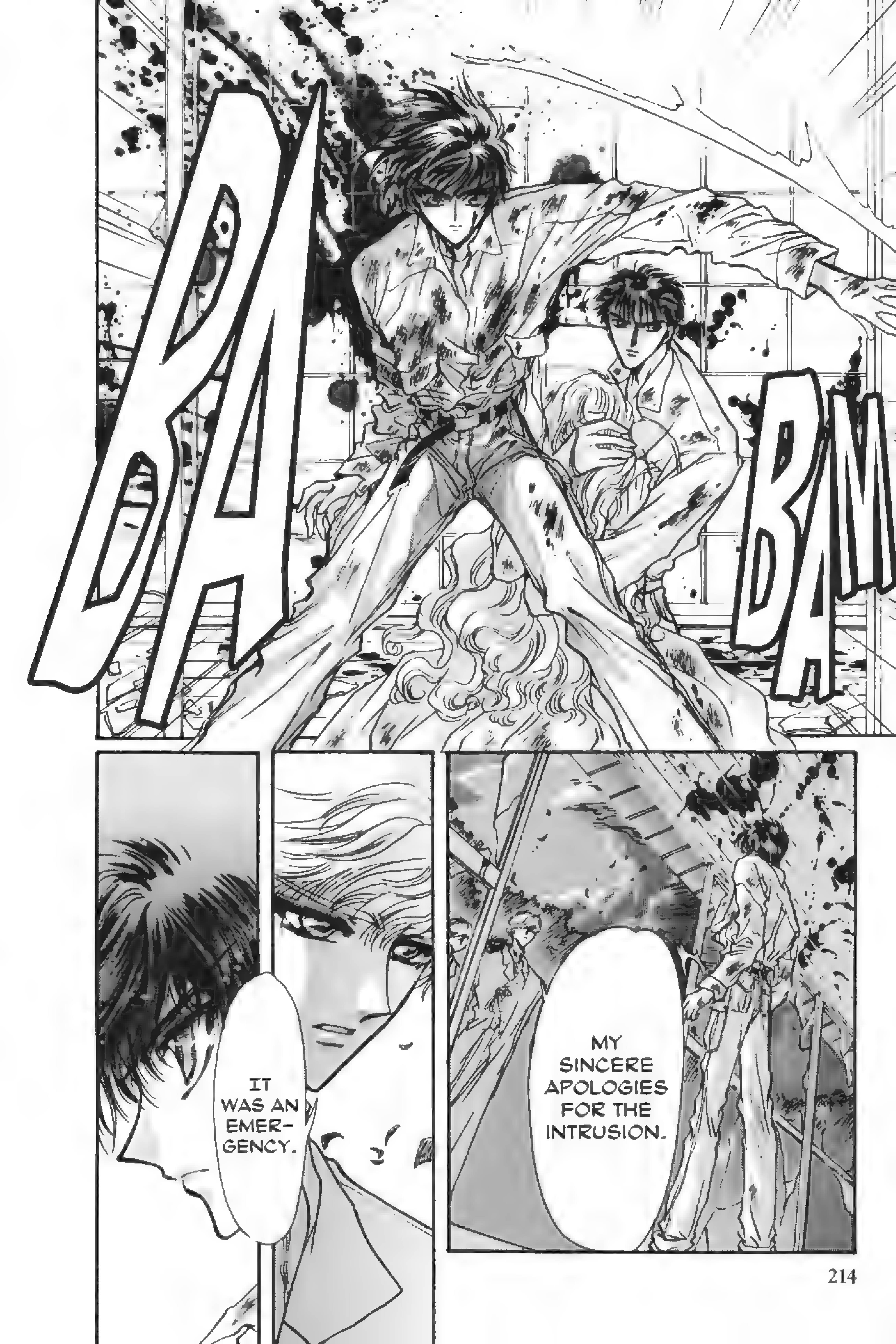

TP...
BAM
YOINK
WHO TH'HECK WAS THAT?
WHO-EVER HE IS, I DON'T THINK...
...THAT HE'S JUST OUT FOR A STROLL.
WSH
MISSY, I *KNEW* YA HAD A SENSE OF HUMOR. I HAD *FAITH*.
NEW CLEAR
WELL, ONE THING WE KNOW FOR SURE IS THAT HE'S FAST!

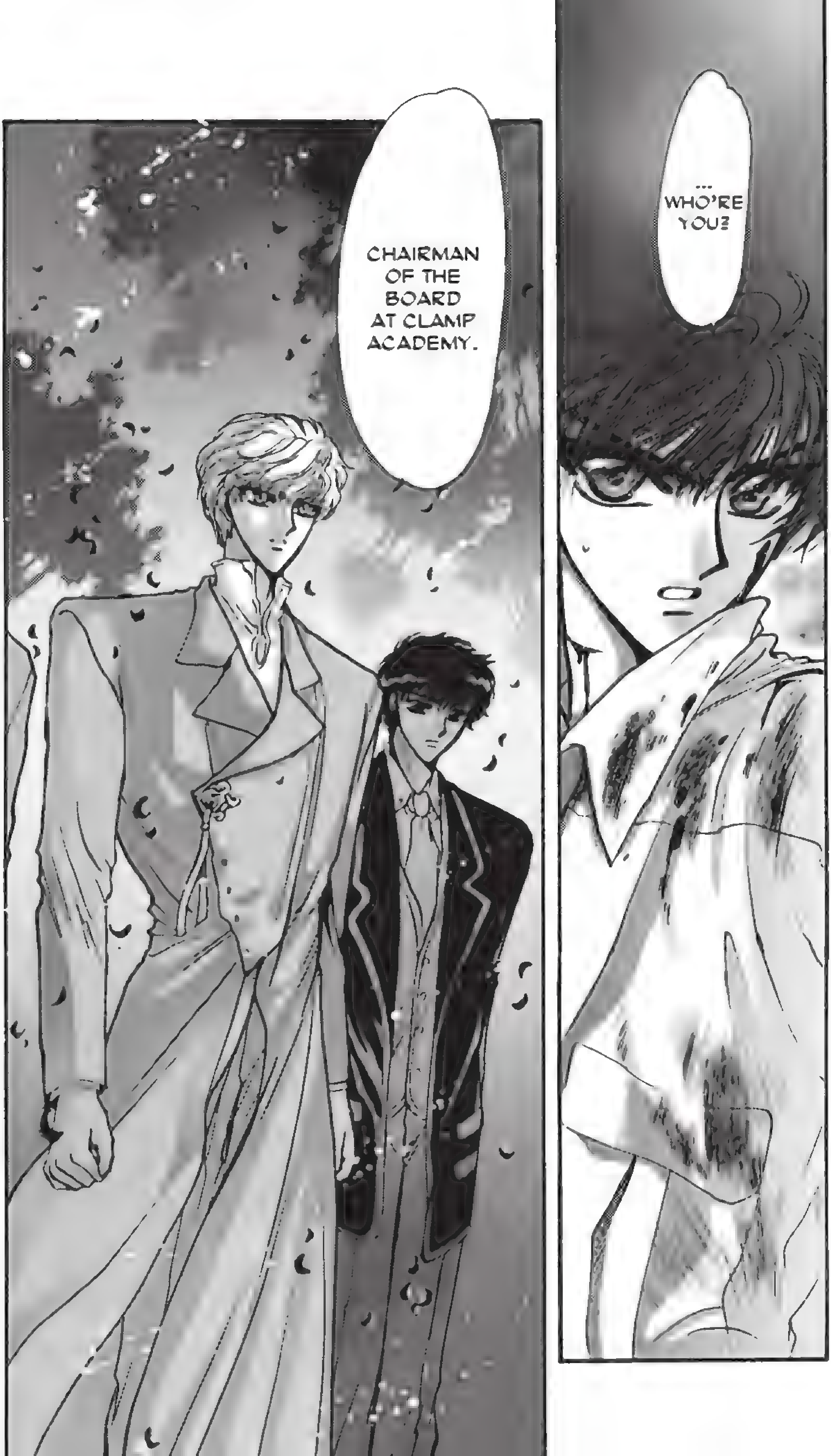

A DRAGON OF HEAVEN?
OR OF EARTH?
EITHER WAY, LOOKS LIKE HE'S HEADIN' FOR NAKANO!
WA HA!!
AND *THAT* MEANS ...
ZOOM
WE'RE GOIN' AFTER HIM!

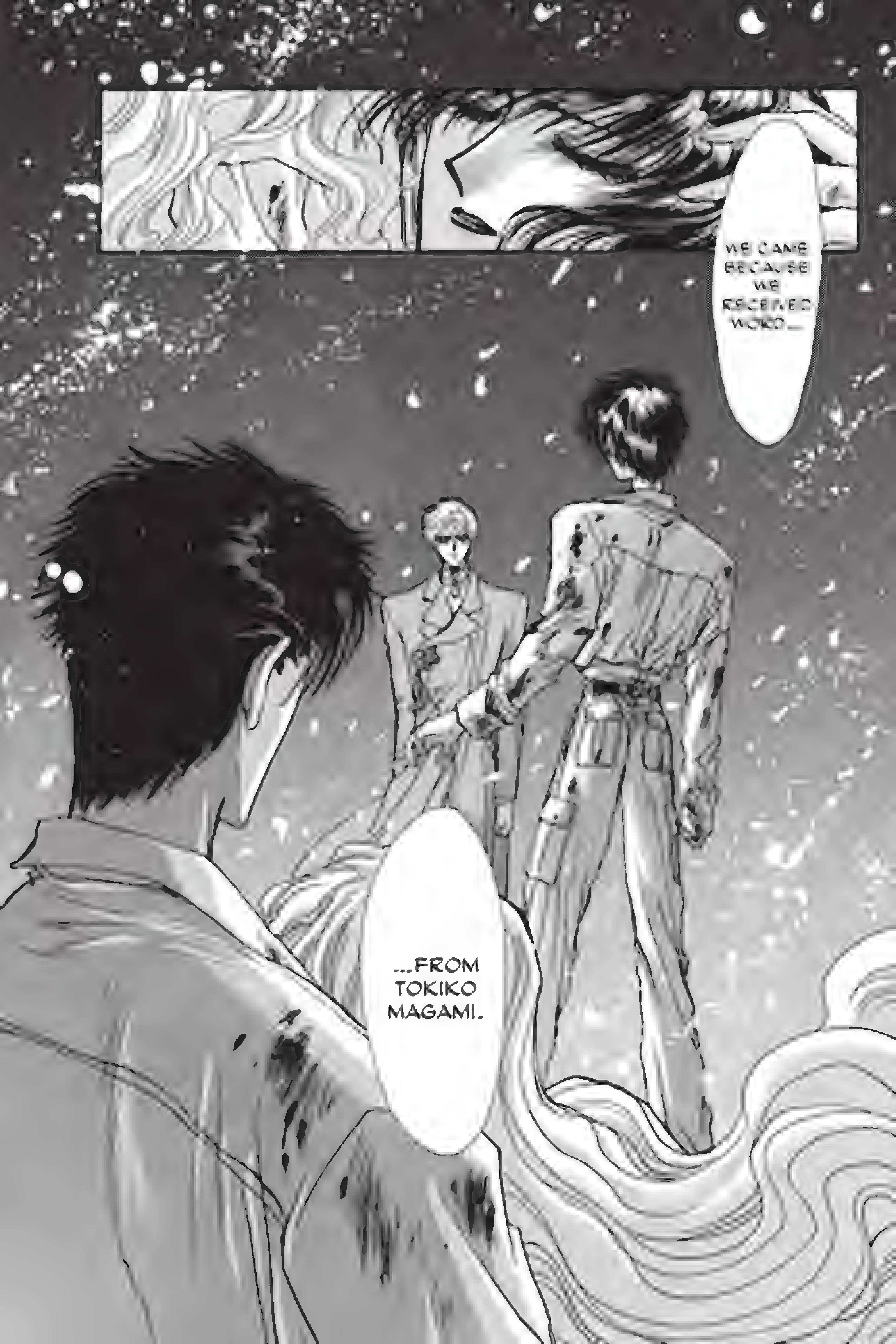

RUSTLE
RSTL...
SKREE
SLAM
TMP
WHOOOSH

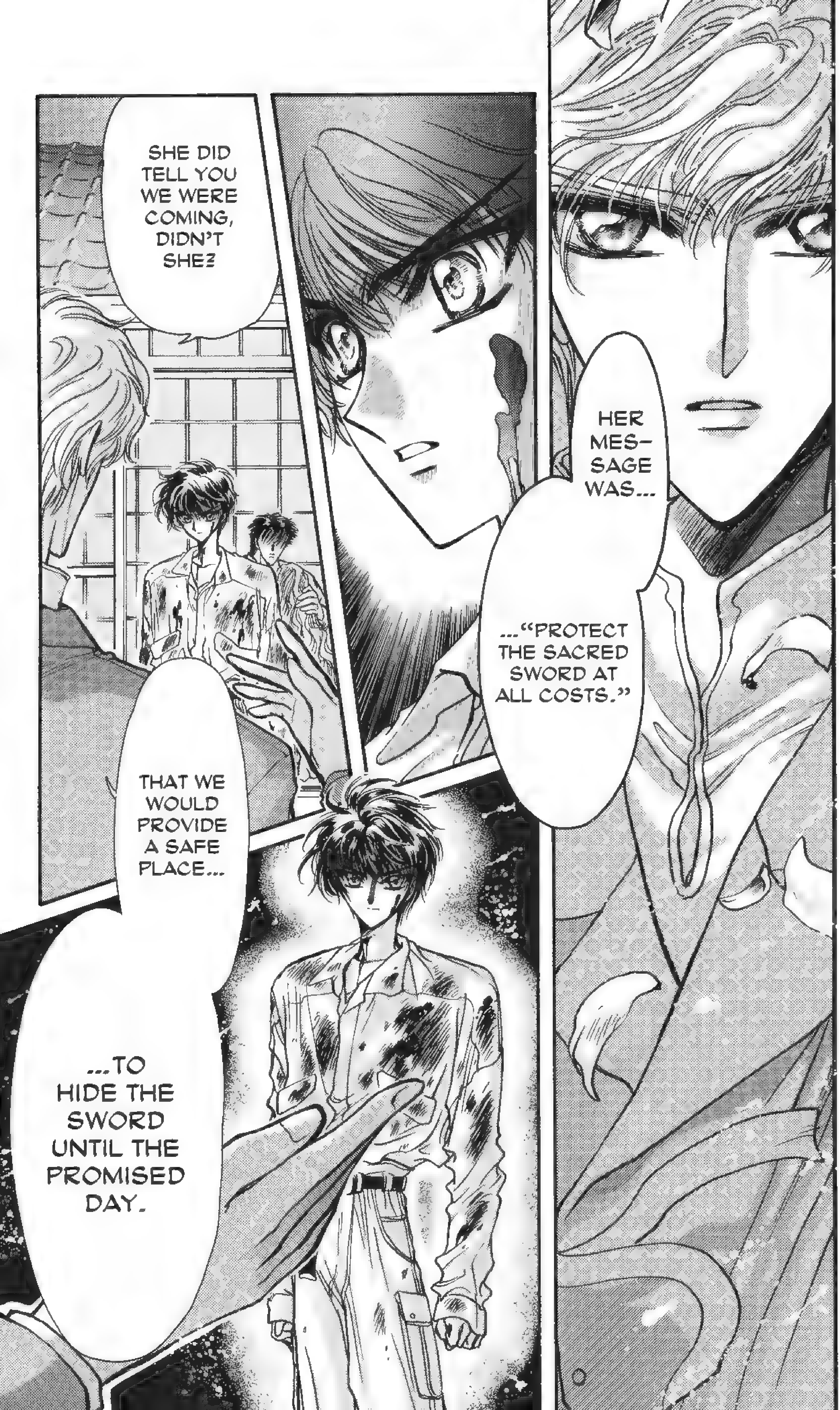

Tee hee Hee Hee
Hee...
IT SEEMS WE'RE TOO LATE.
AH

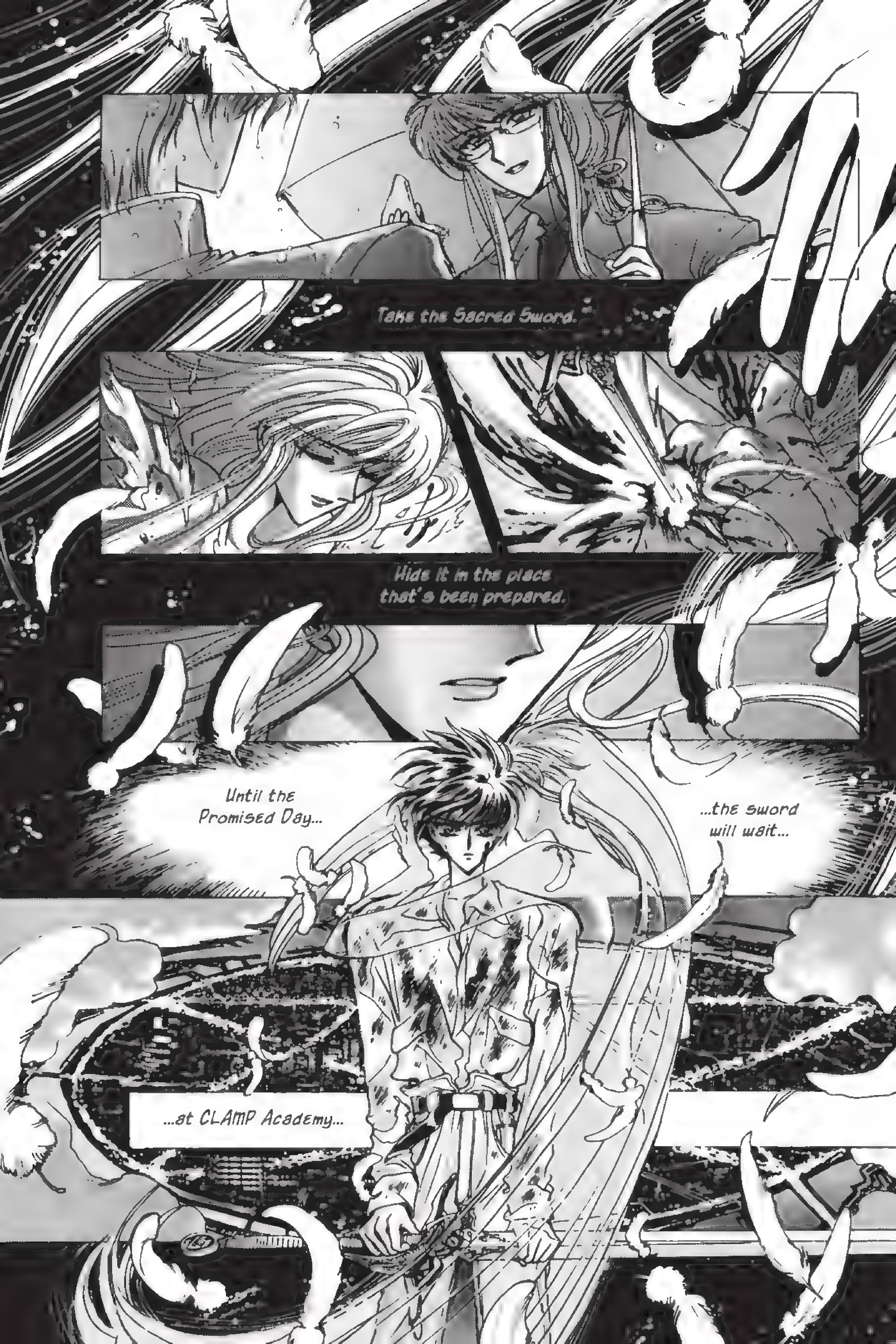
HS
WHOOOOOO

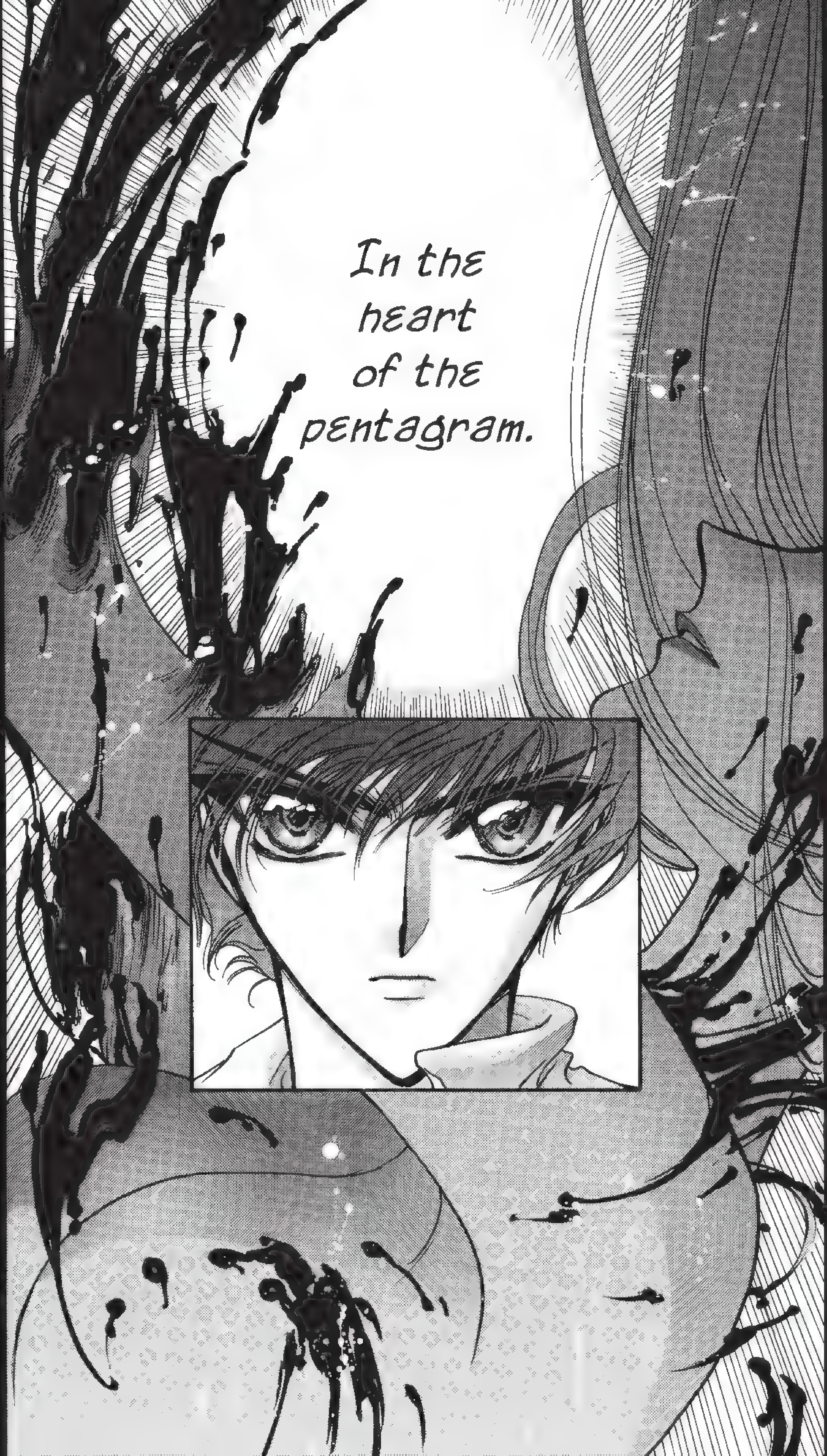

BAM
DA
MY SINCERE APOLOGIES FOR THE INTRUSION.
IT WAS AN EMERGENCY.

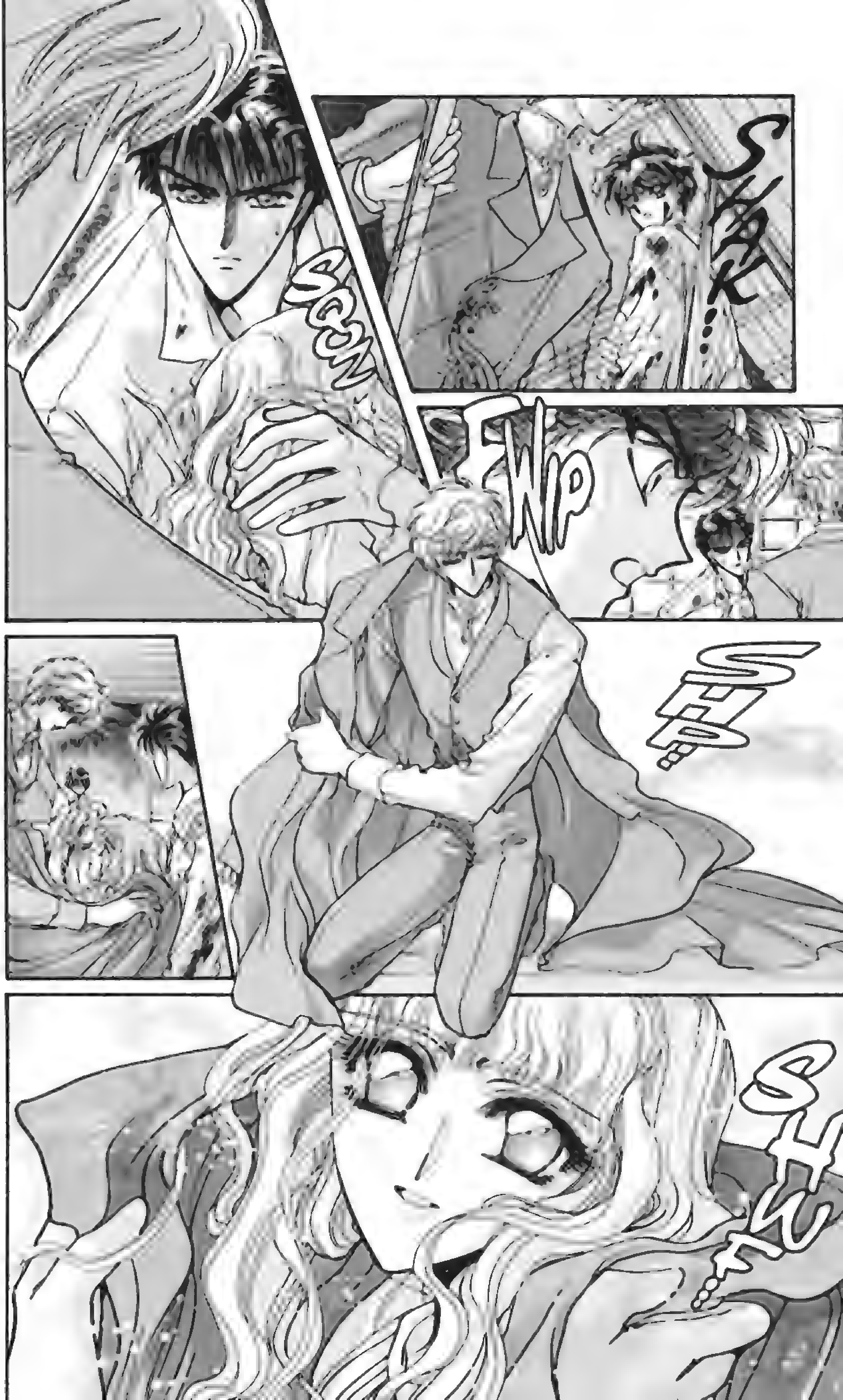

... WHO'RE YOU?
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AT CLAMP ACADEMY.

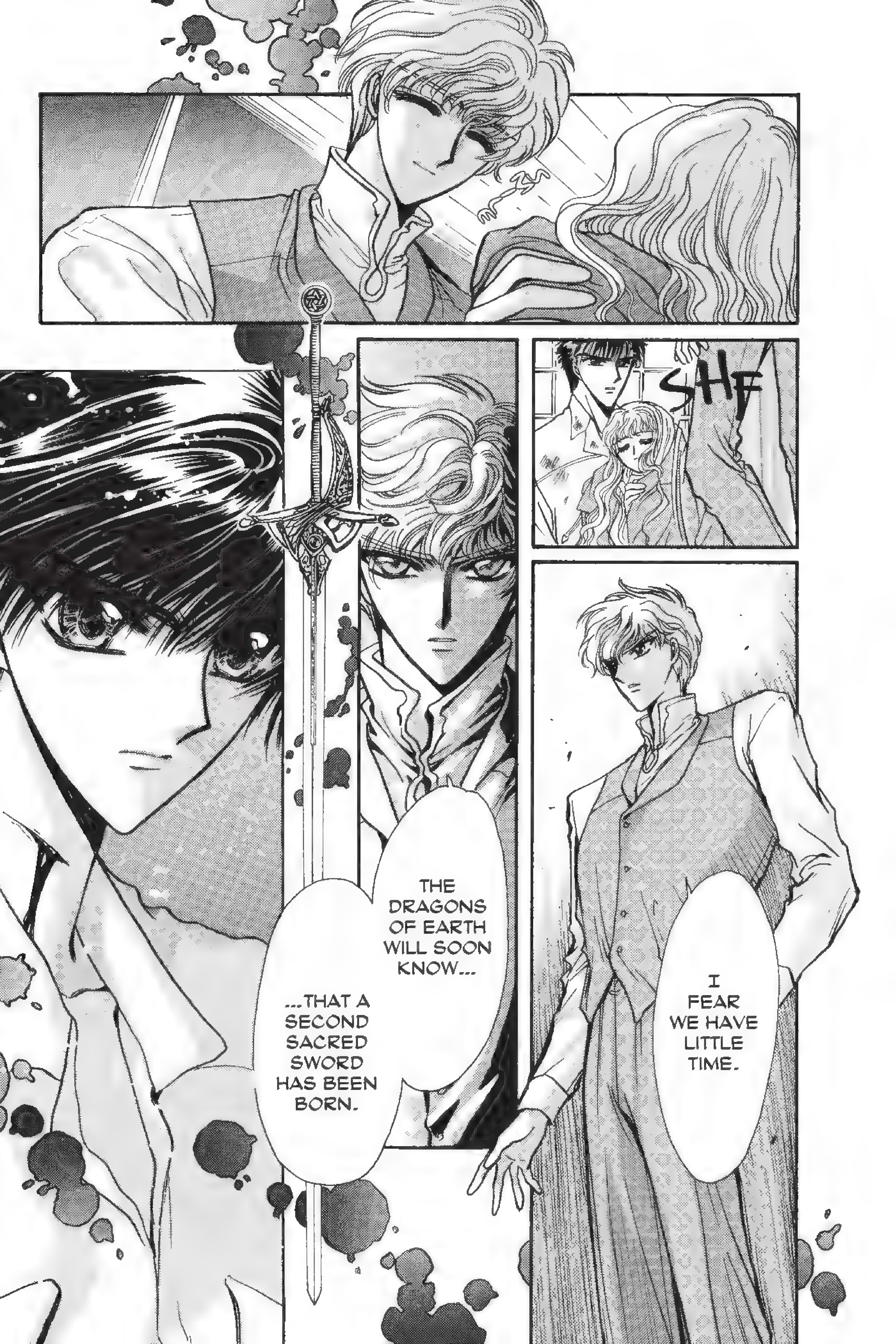

WE CAME BECAUSE WE RECEIVED WORD...
...FROM TOKIKO MAGAMI.

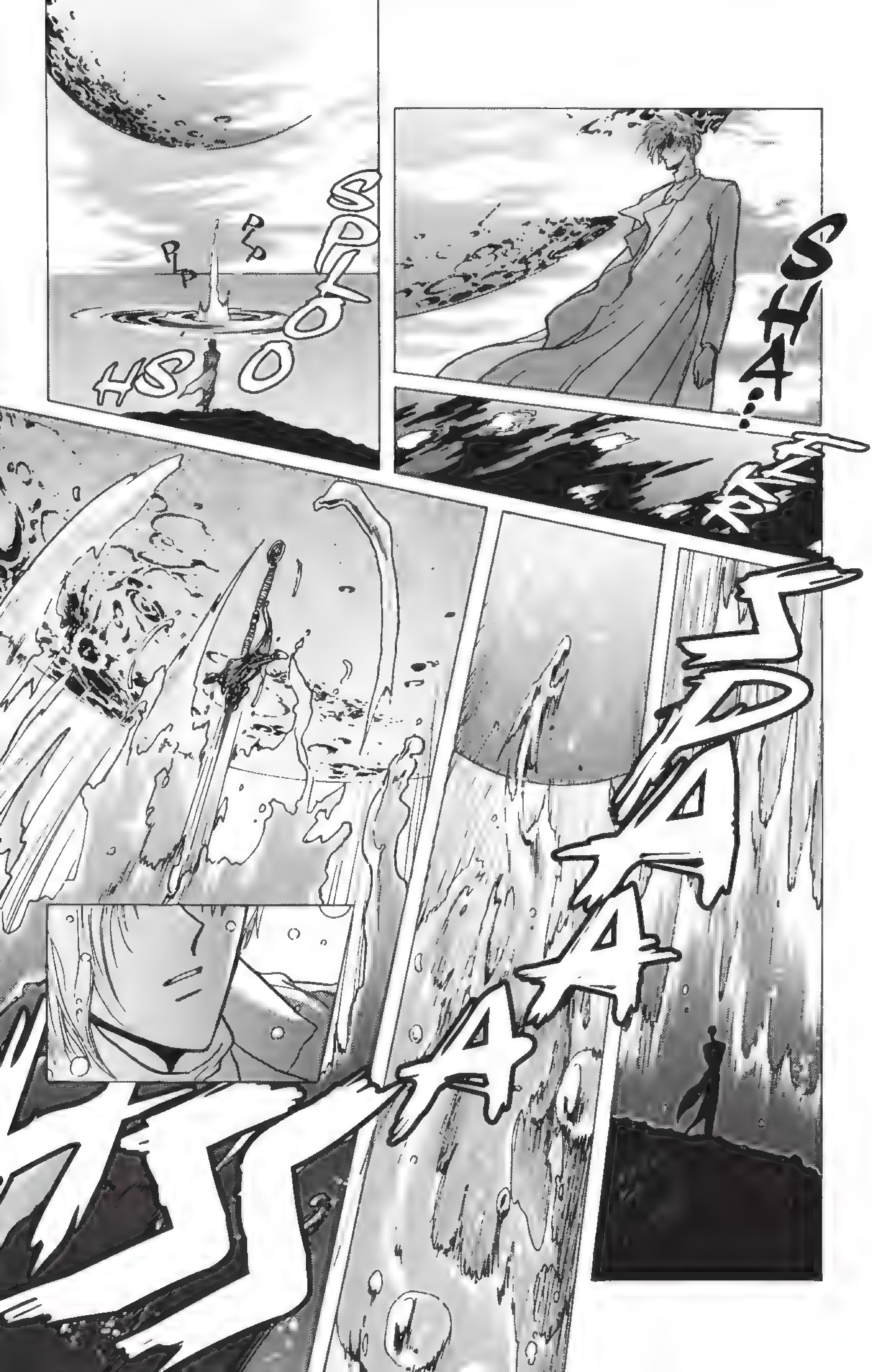

SHE DID TELL YOU WE WERE COMING, DIDN'T SHE?
HER MES-SAGE WAS...
..."PROTECT THE SACRED SWORD AT ALL COSTS."
THAT WE WOULD PROVIDE A SAFE PLACE...
...TO HIDE THE SWORD UNTIL THE PROMISED DAY.

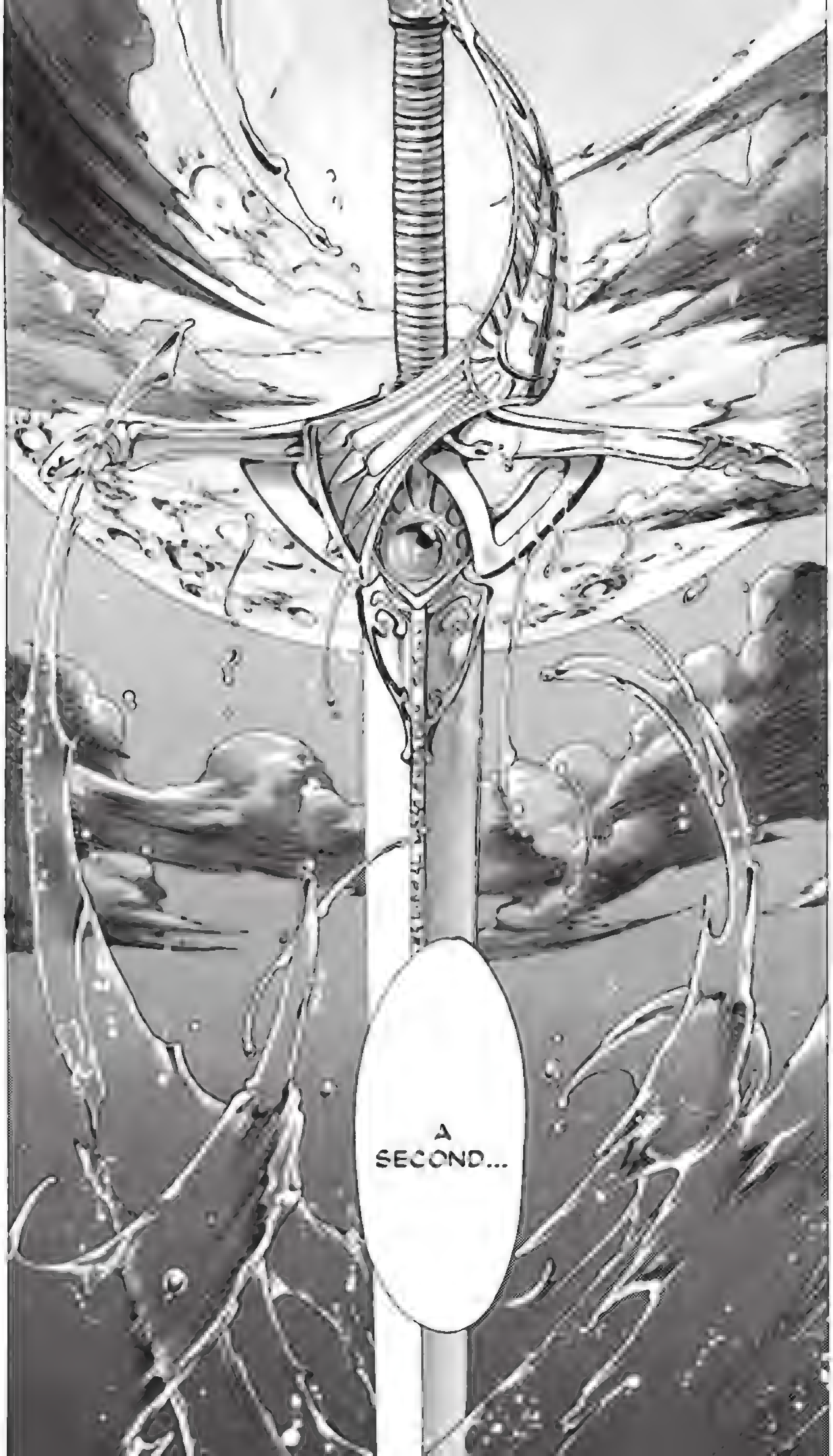

Take the Sacred Sword.
Hide it in the place that's been prepared.
Until the Promised Day...
...the sword will wait...
...at CLAMP Academy...

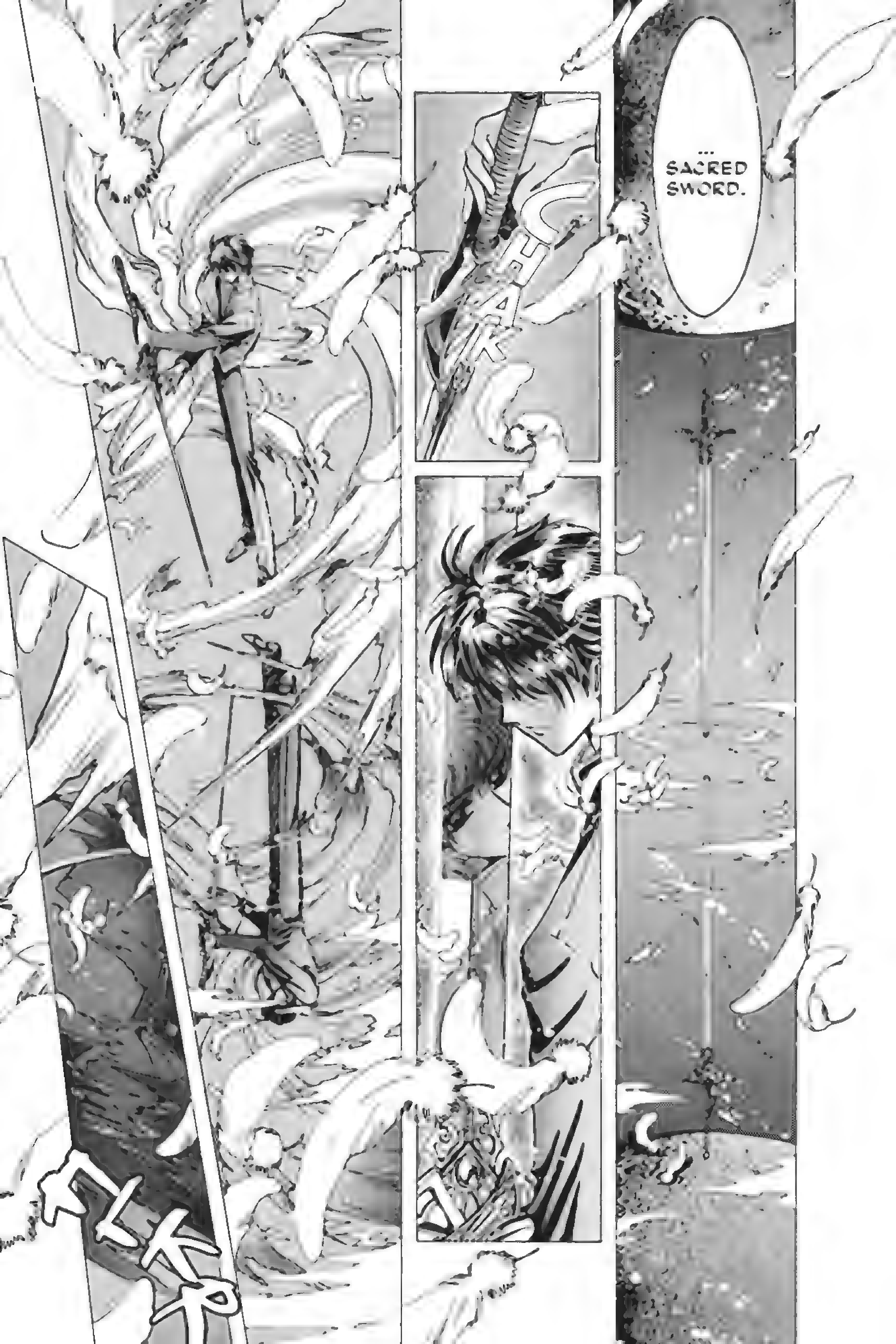

In the heart of the pentagram.

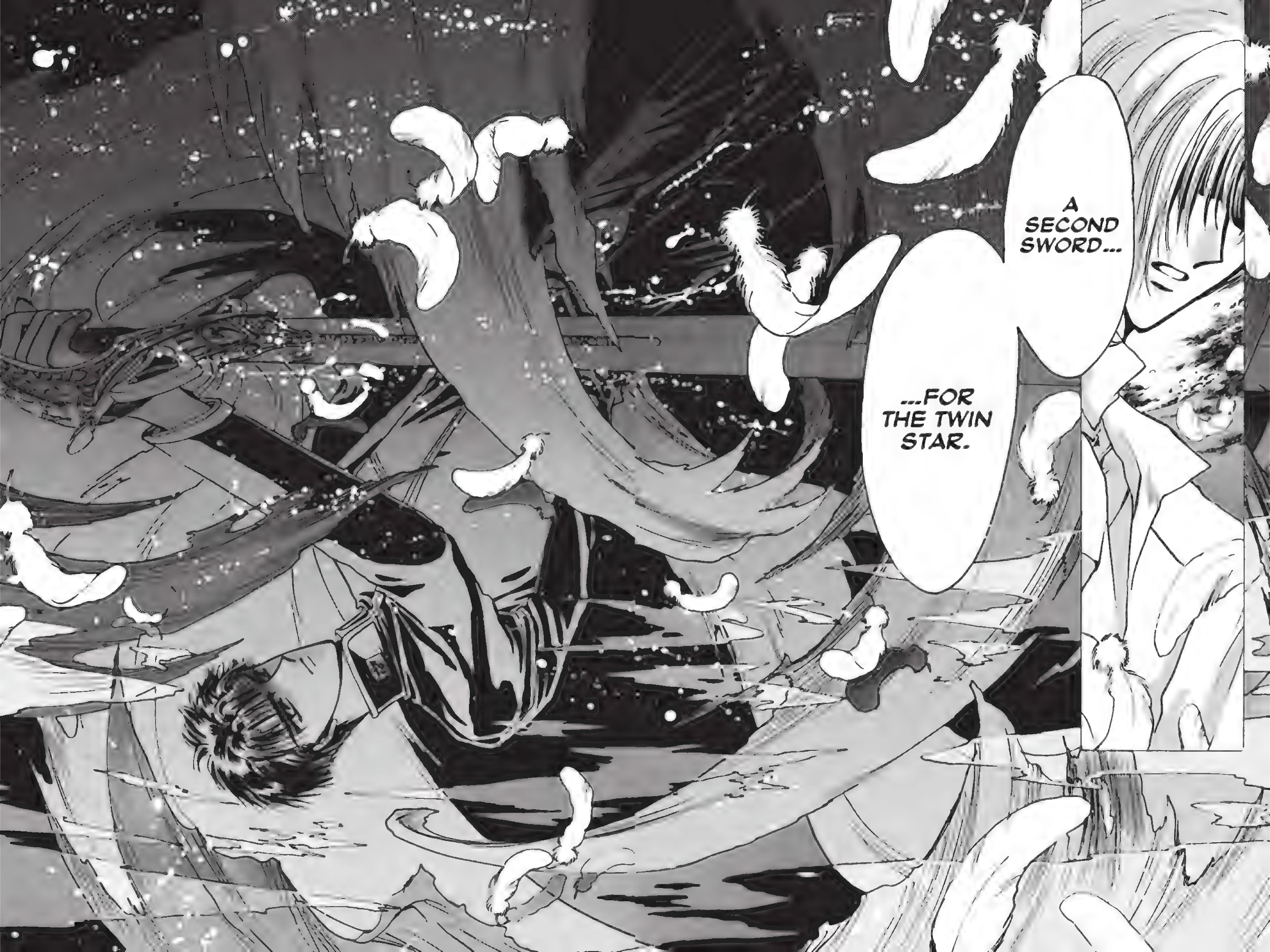

SHRK
SCCN
FWIP
SHP...
SHW...

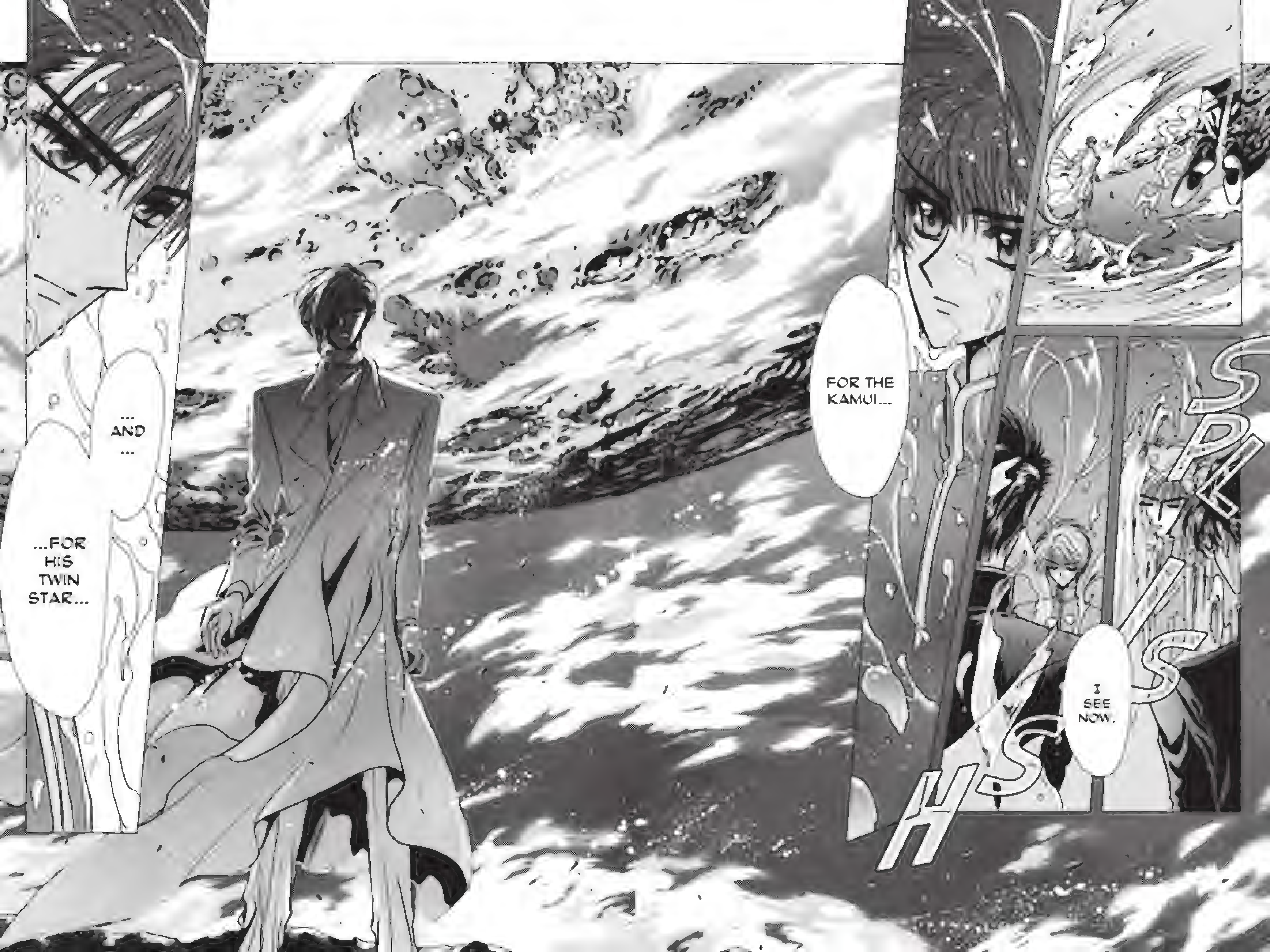

SHF
THE DRAGONS OF EARTH WILL SOON KNOW...
...THAT A SECOND SACRED SWORD HAS BEEN BORN.
I FEAR WE HAVE LITTLE TIME.

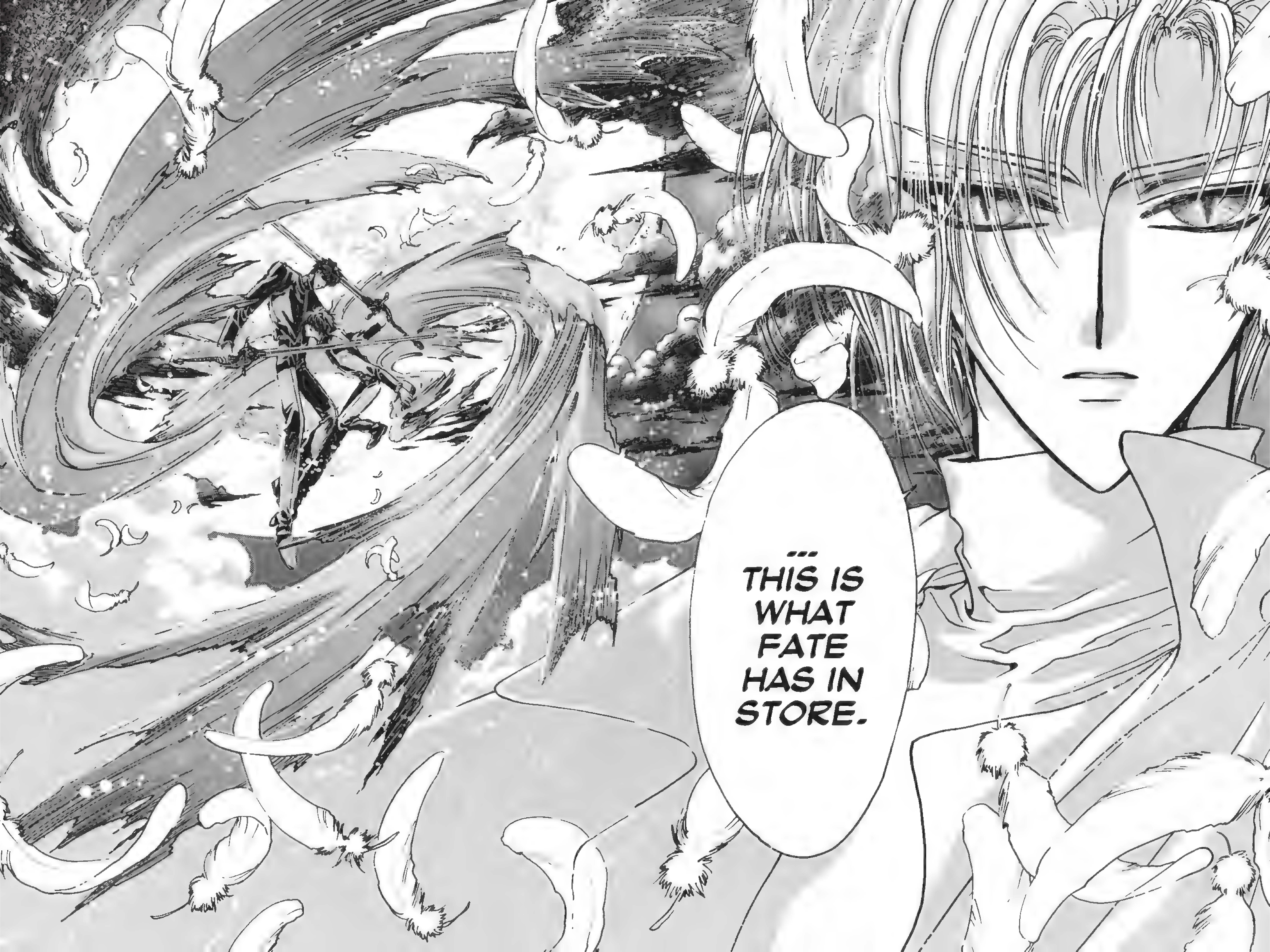

SHA...
SPLOOOSH
PLP PLP
SPAAAASH

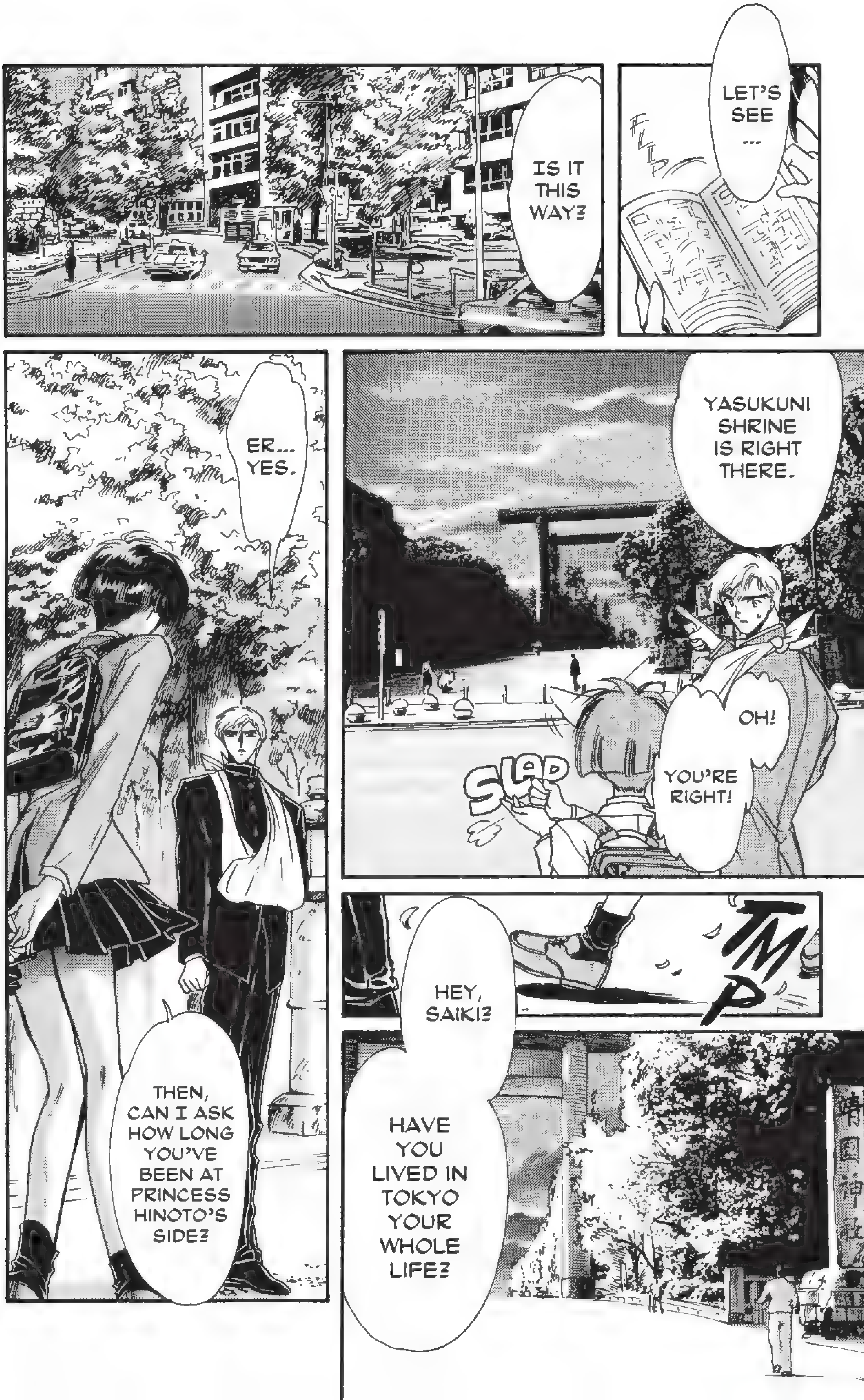

A SECOND...

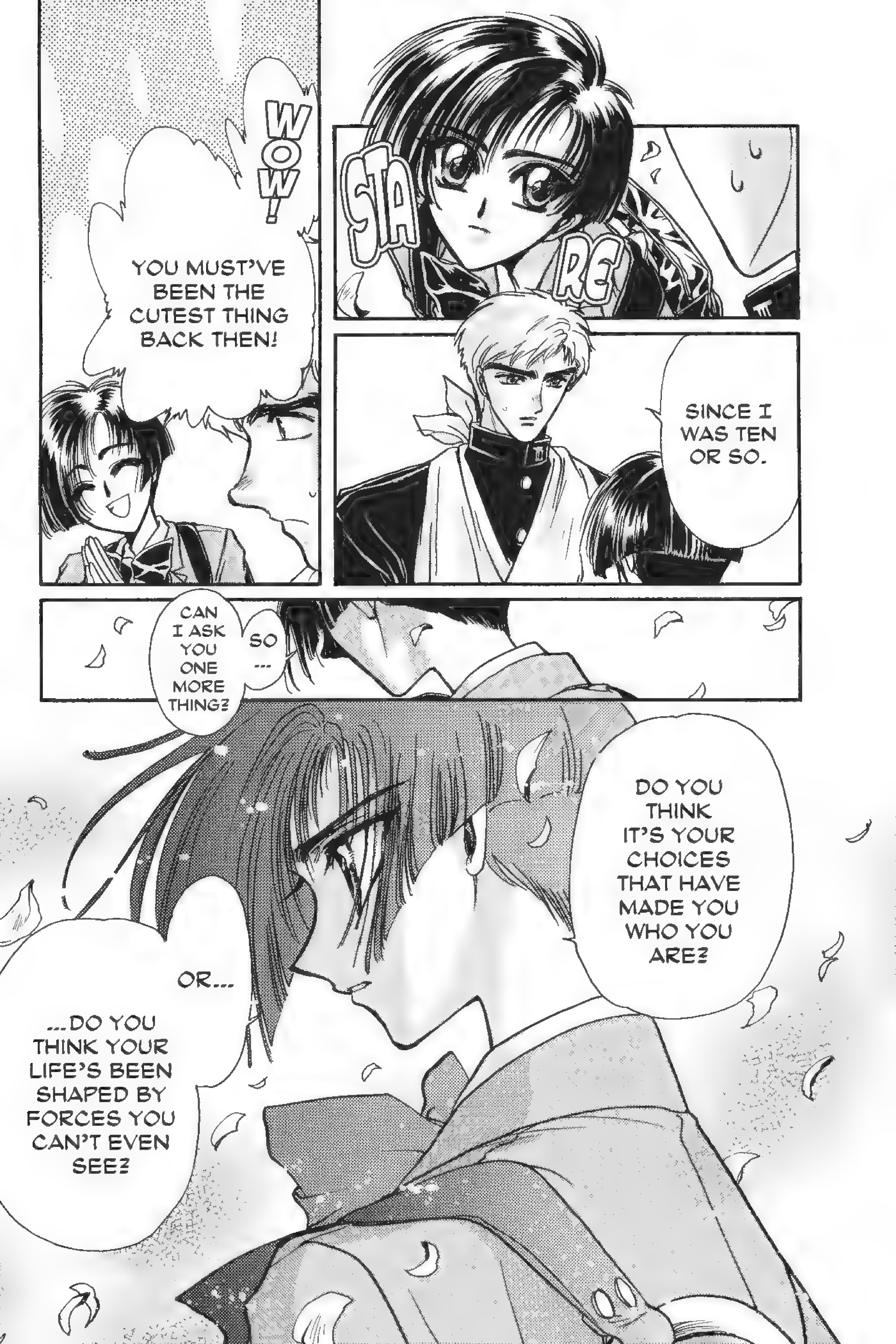

... SACRED SWORD.
CHAK
FLKR

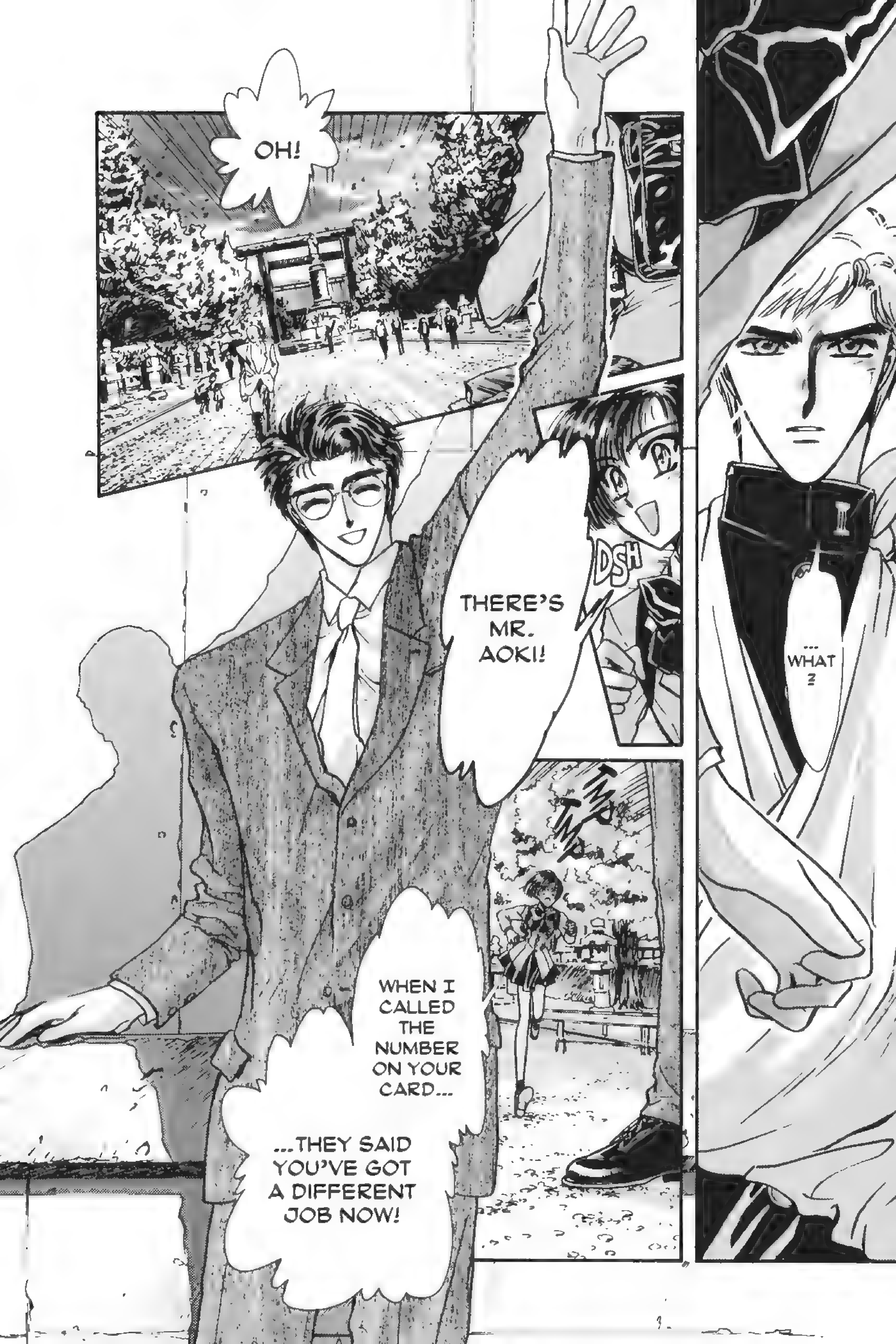

A SECOND SWORD...
...FOR THE TWIN STAR.

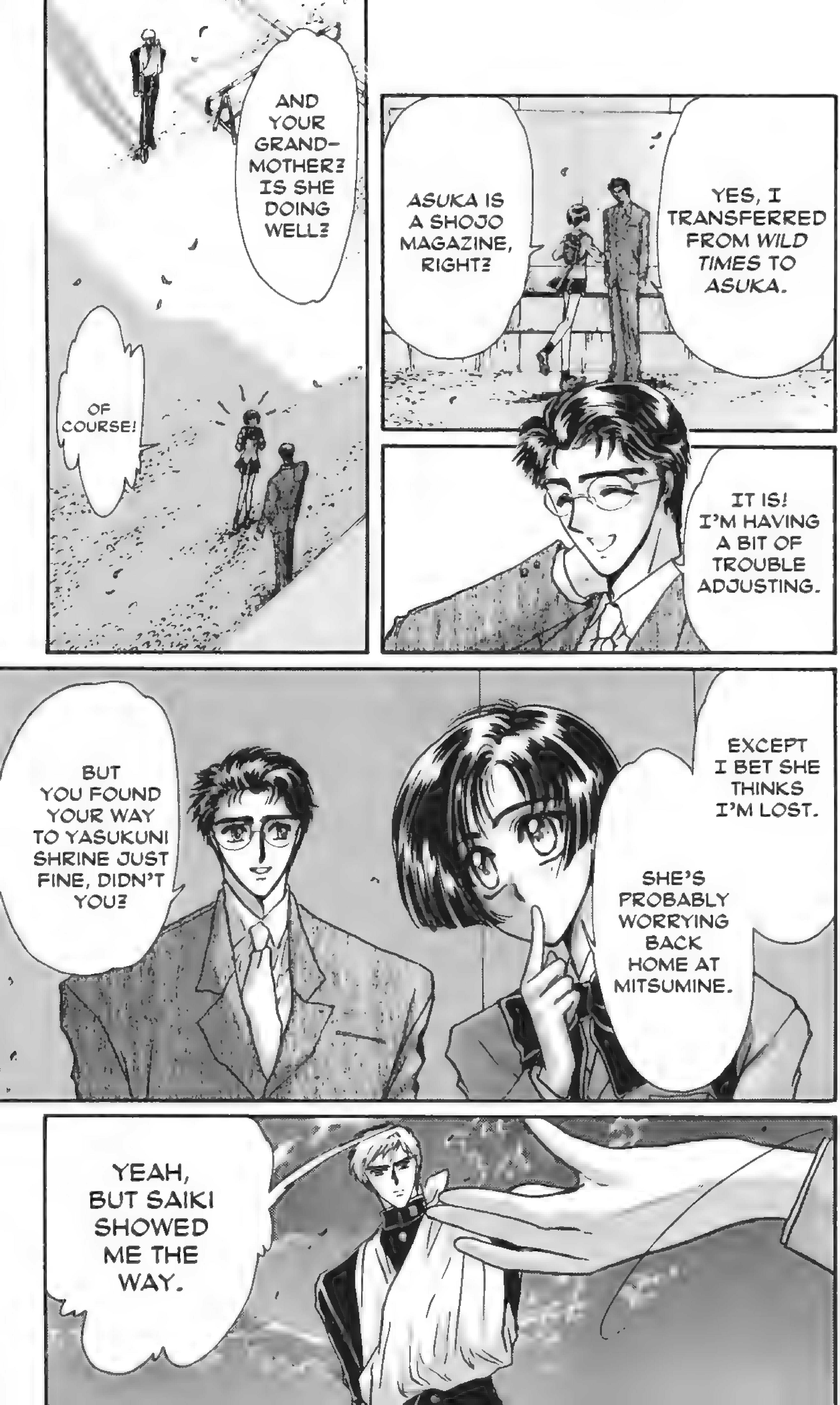

FOR THE KAMUI...
I SEE NOW.
SPLISSH
... AND ...
...FOR HIS TWIN STAR...

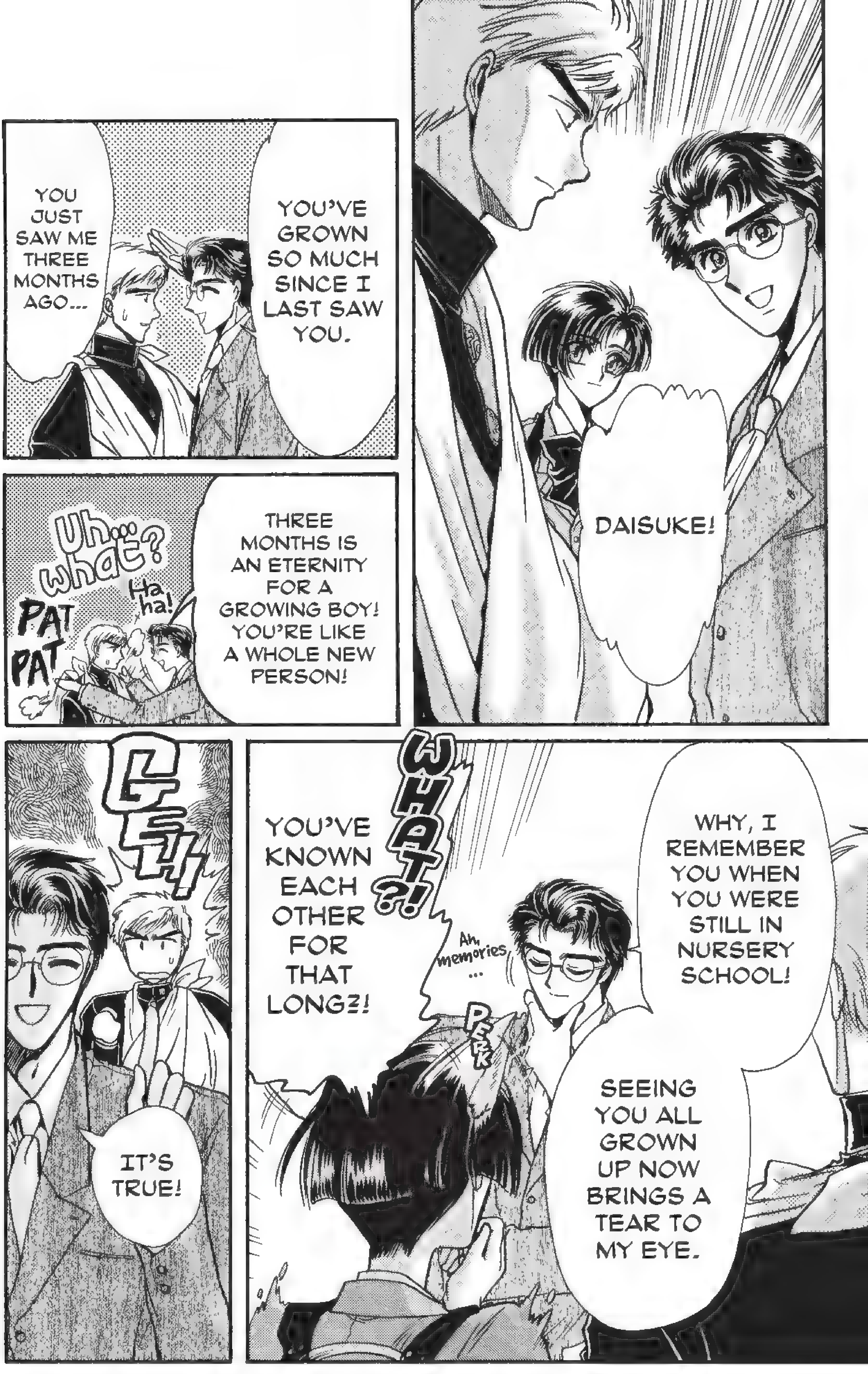

... THIS IS WHAT FATE HAS IN STORE.

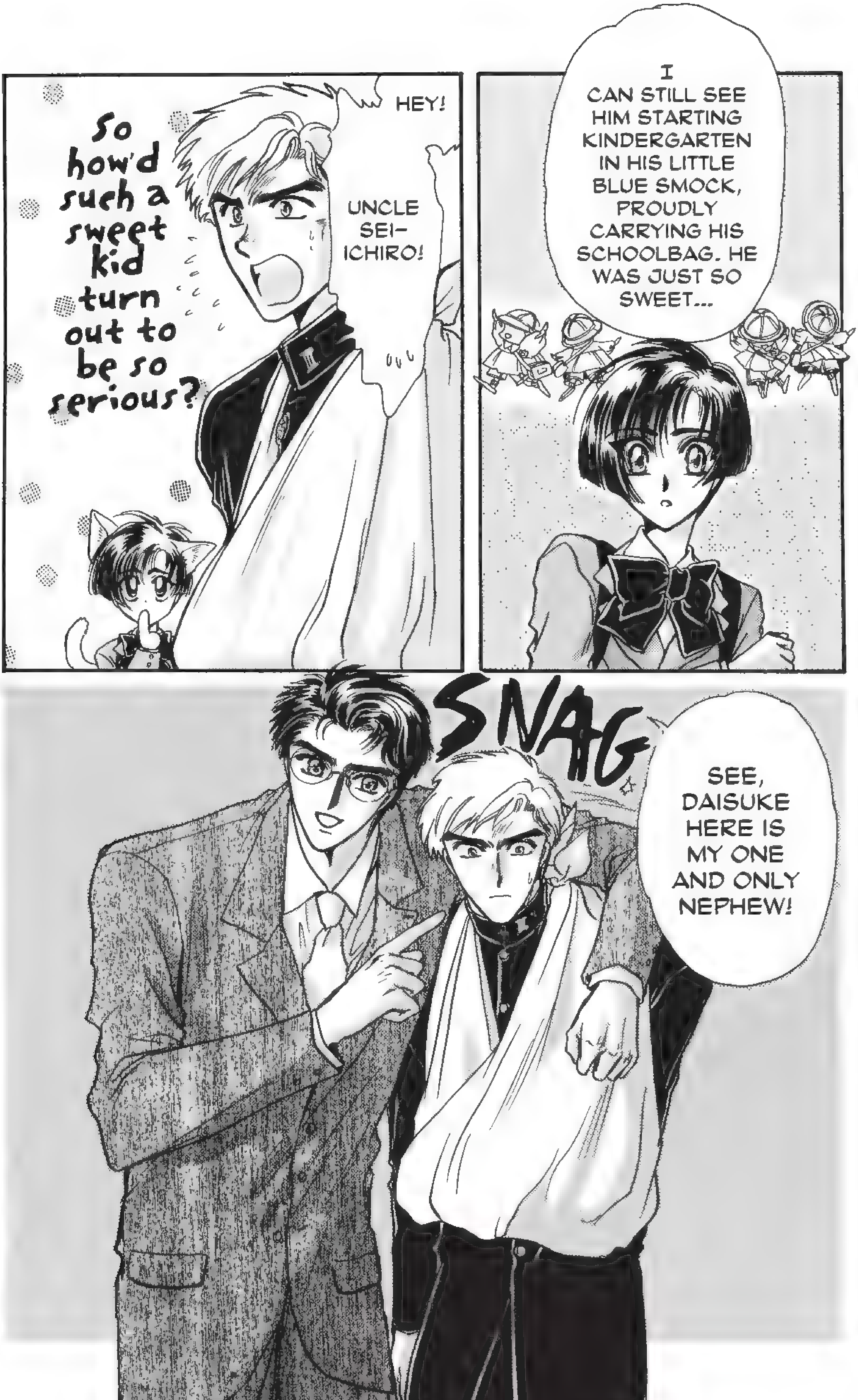

LET'S SEE ...
FLIP
IS IT THIS WAY?
YASUKUNI SHRINE IS RIGHT THERE.
OH!
YOU'RE RIGHT!
SLAP
TMP
HEY, SAIKI?
HAVE YOU LIVED IN TOKYO YOUR WHOLE LIFE?
ER... YES.
THEN, CAN I ASK HOW LONG YOU'VE BEEN AT PRINCESS HINOTO'S SIDE?

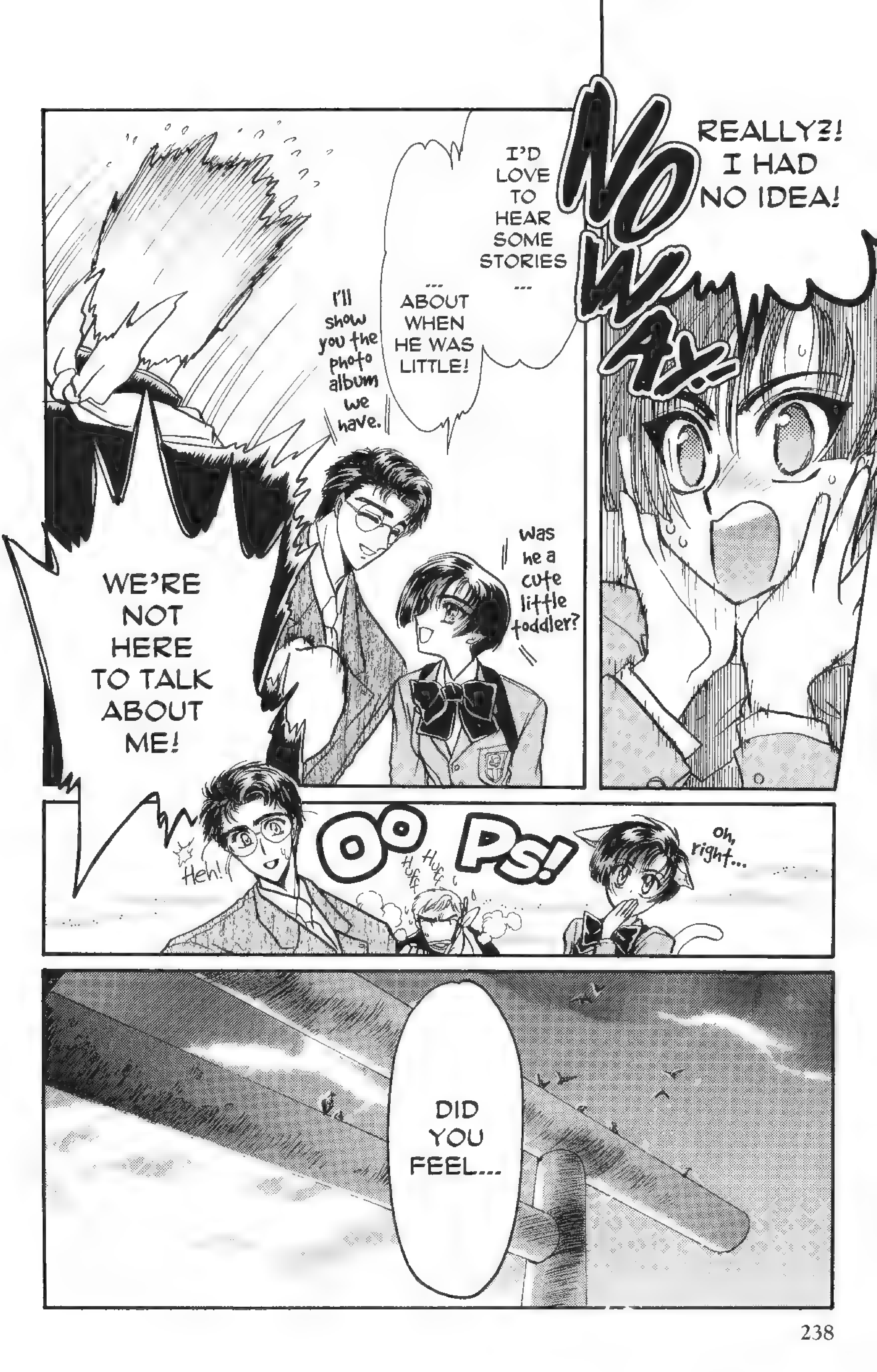

STARE
SINCE I WAS TEN OR SO.
WOW!
YOU MUST'VE BEEN THE CUTEST THING BACK THEN!
SO ...
CAN I ASK YOU ONE MORE THING?
DO YOU THINK IT'S YOUR CHOICES THAT HAVE MADE YOU WHO YOU ARE?
OR...
...DO YOU THINK YOUR LIFE'S BEEN SHAPED BY FORCES YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE?

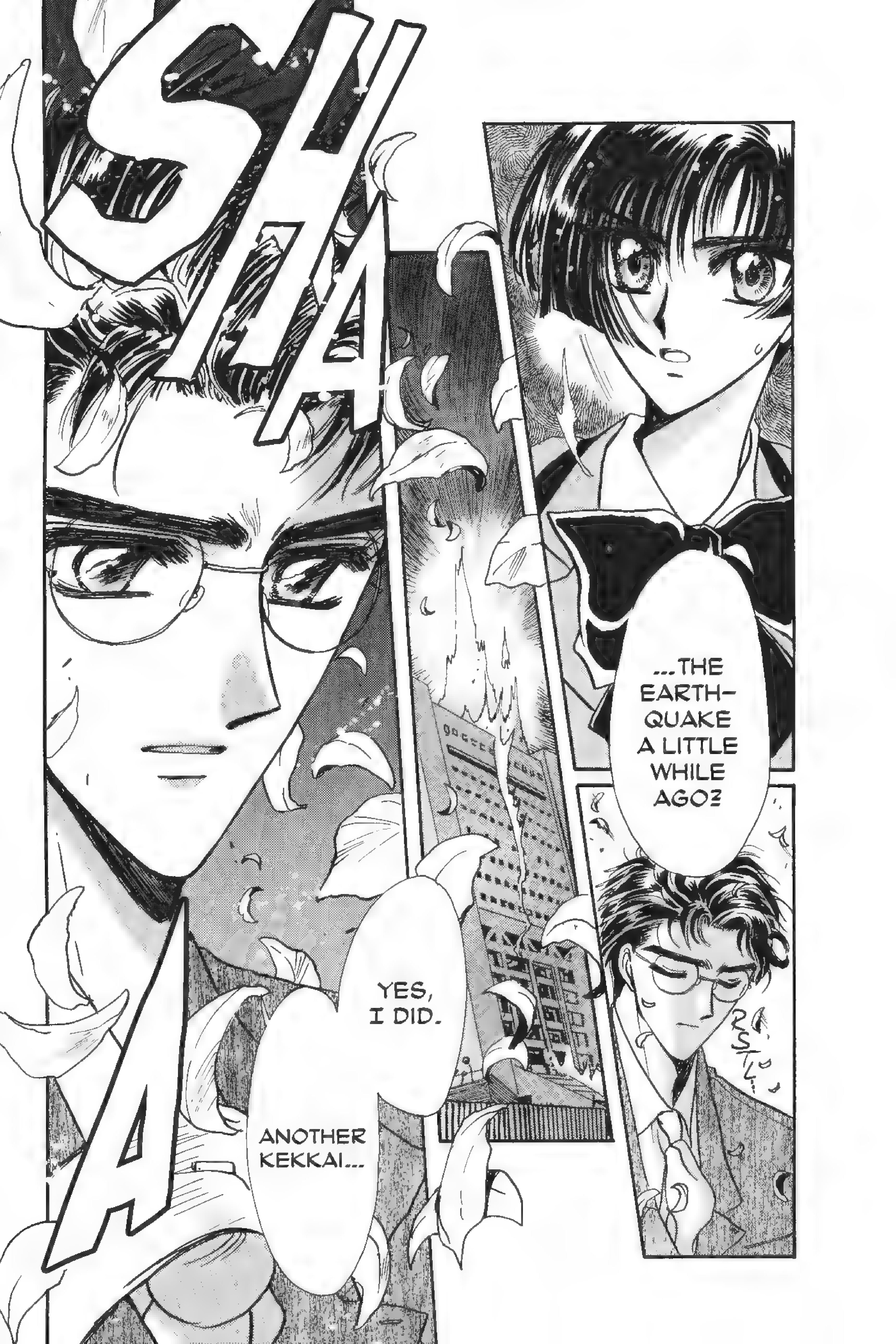

...WHAT?
OH!
DSH
THERE'S MR. AOKI!
TMP TMP
WHEN I CALLED THE NUMBER ON YOUR CARD...
...THEY SAID YOU'VE GOT A DIFFERENT JOB NOW!

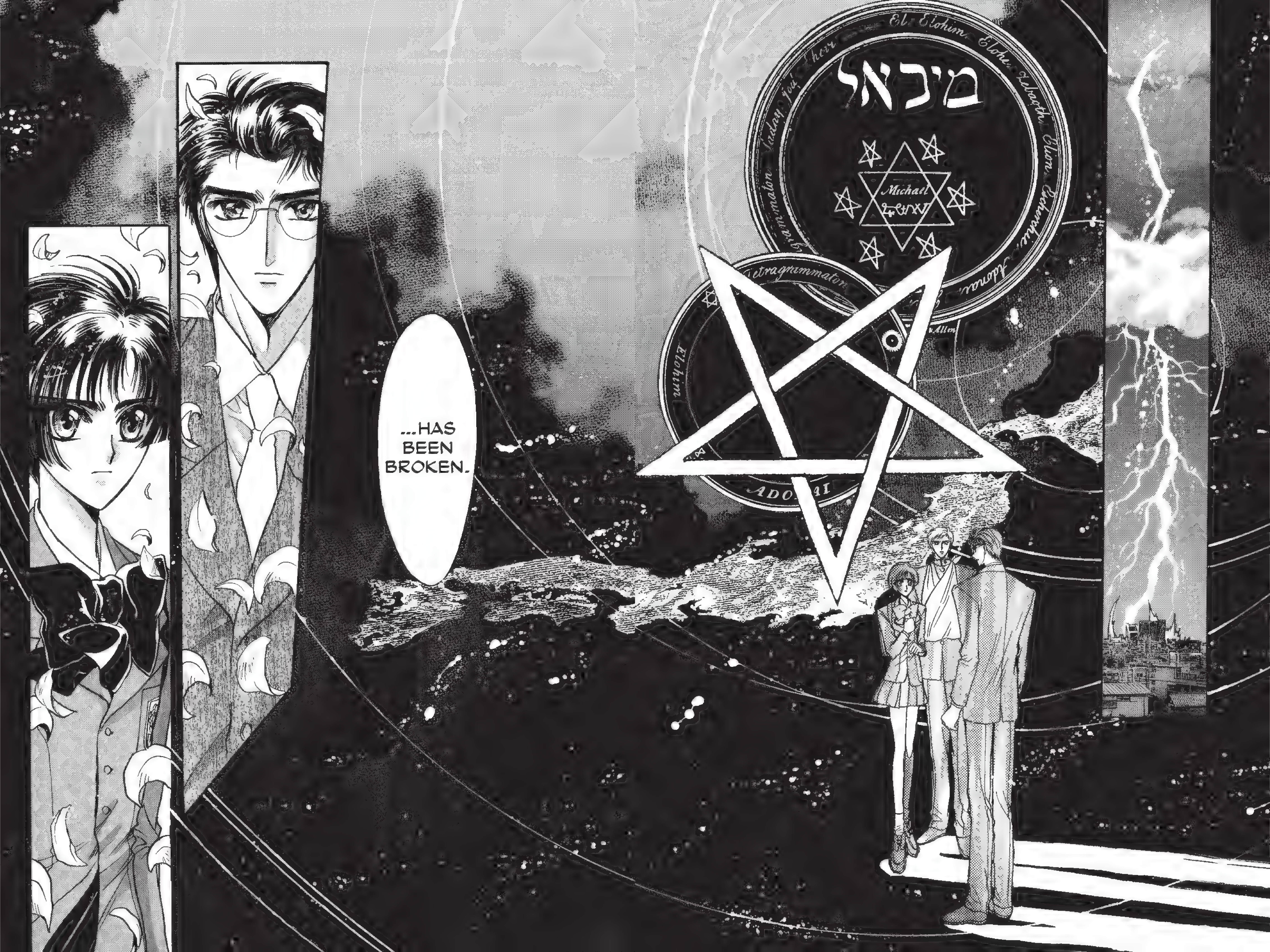

YES, I TRANSFERRED FROM *WILD TIMES* TO *ASUKA*.
ASUKA IS A SHOJO MAGAZINE, RIGHT?
IT IS! I'M HAVING A BIT OF TROUBLE ADJUSTING.
AND YOUR GRANDMOTHER? IS SHE DOING WELL?
OF COURSE!
EXCEPT I BET SHE THINKS I'M LOST.
SHE'S PROBABLY WORRYING BACK HOME AT MITSUMINE.
BUT YOU FOUND YOUR WAY TO YASUKUNI SHRINE JUST FINE, DIDN'T YOU?
YEAH, BUT SAIKI SHOWED ME THE WAY.

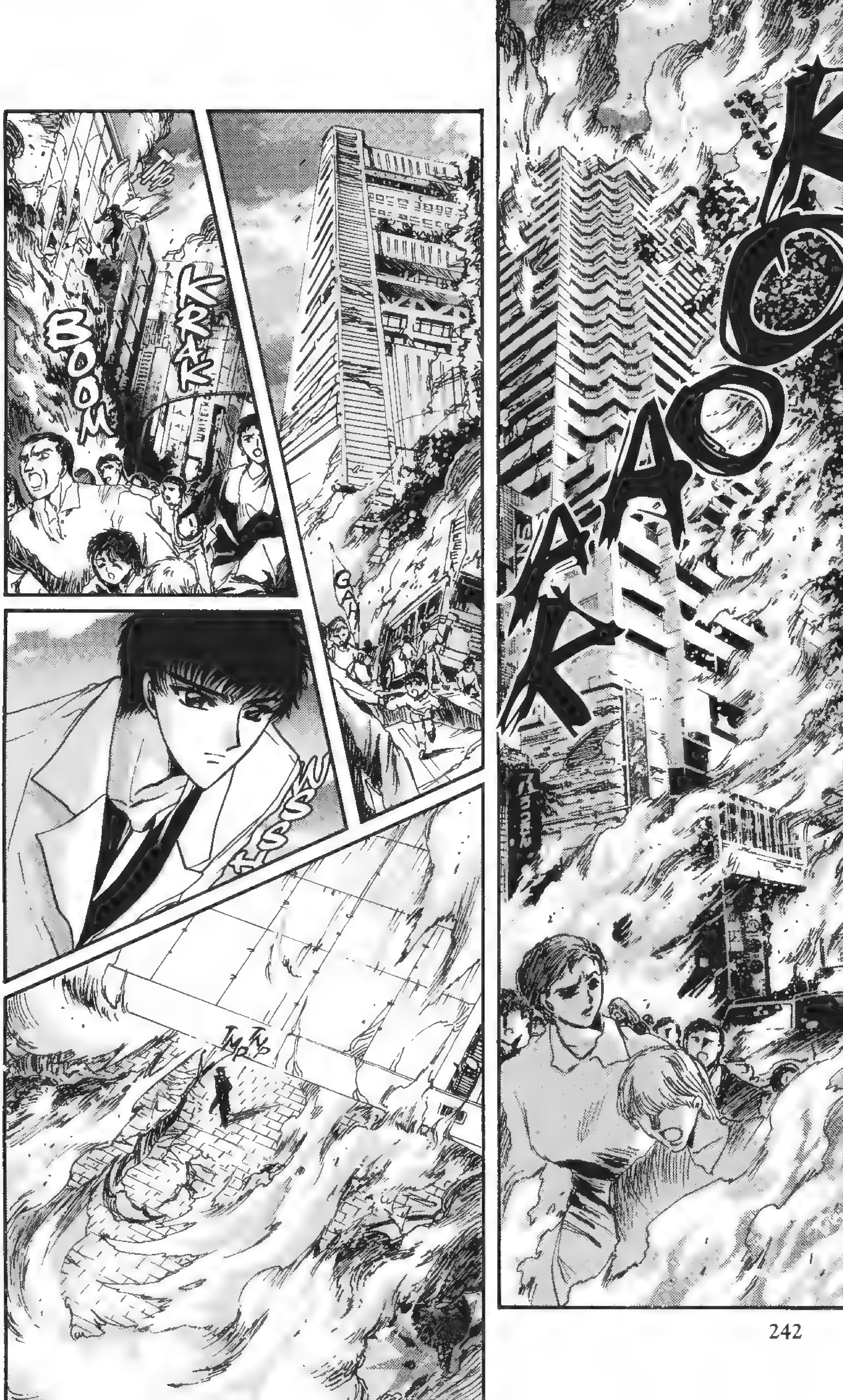

DAISUKE!
YOU'VE GROWN SO MUCH SINCE I LAST SAW YOU.
YOU JUST SAW ME THREE MONTHS AGO...
THREE MONTHS IS AN ETERNITY FOR A GROWING BOY! YOU'RE LIKE A WHOLE NEW PERSON!
Ha ha!
Uh... what?
PAT PAT
WHY, I REMEMBER YOU WHEN YOU WERE STILL IN NURSERY SCHOOL!
SEEING YOU ALL GROWN UP NOW BRINGS A TEAR TO MY EYE.
Ah, memories...
PERK
WHAT?!
YOU'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR THAT LONG?!
GEH!
IT'S TRUE!

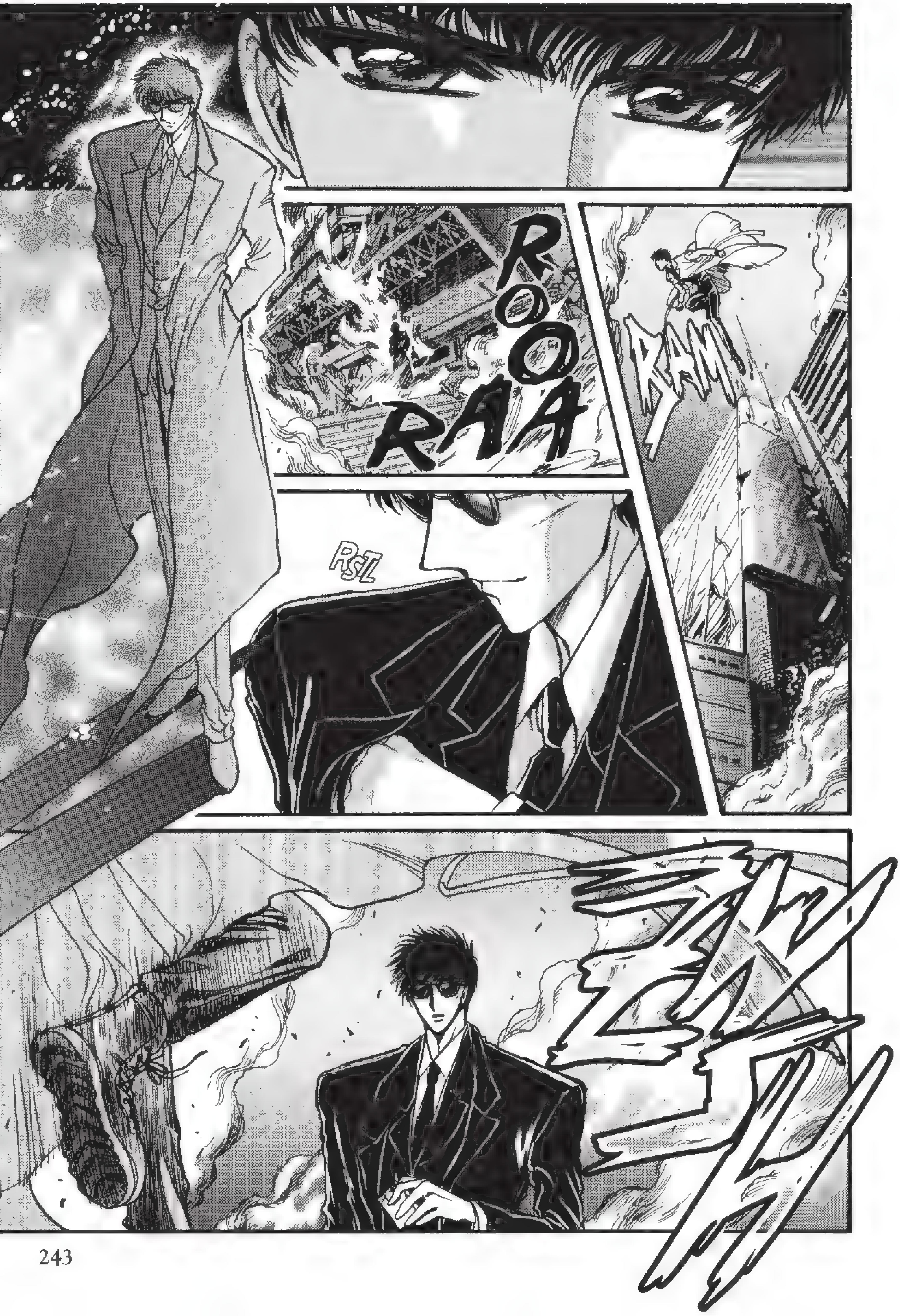

I CAN STILL SEE HIM STARTING KINDERGARTEN IN HIS LITTLE BLUE SMOCK, PROUDLY CARRYING HIS SCHOOLBAG. HE WAS JUST SO SWEET...
So how'd such a sweet kid turn out to be so serious?
HEY!
UNCLE SEI-ICHIRO!
SNAG
SEE, DAISUKE HERE IS MY ONE AND ONLY NEPHEW!

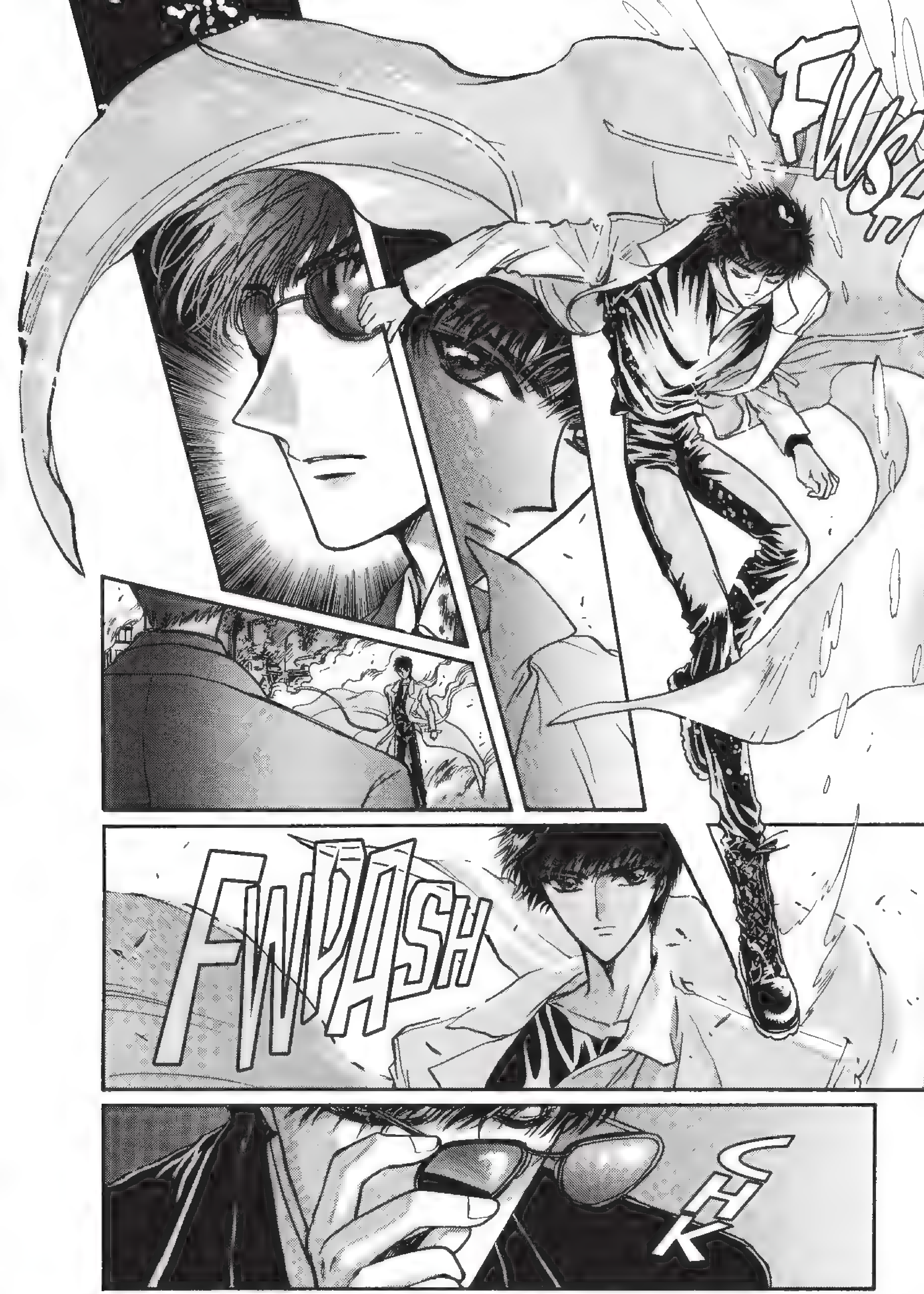

NO WAY.
REALLY?! I HAD NO IDEA!
I'D LOVE TO HEAR SOME STORIES...
...ABOUT WHEN HE WAS LITTLE!
I'll show you the photo album we have.
Was he a cute little toddler?
WE'RE NOT HERE TO TALK ABOUT ME!
Oh, right...
OOPS!
Huff Huff
Heh!
DID YOU FEEL...

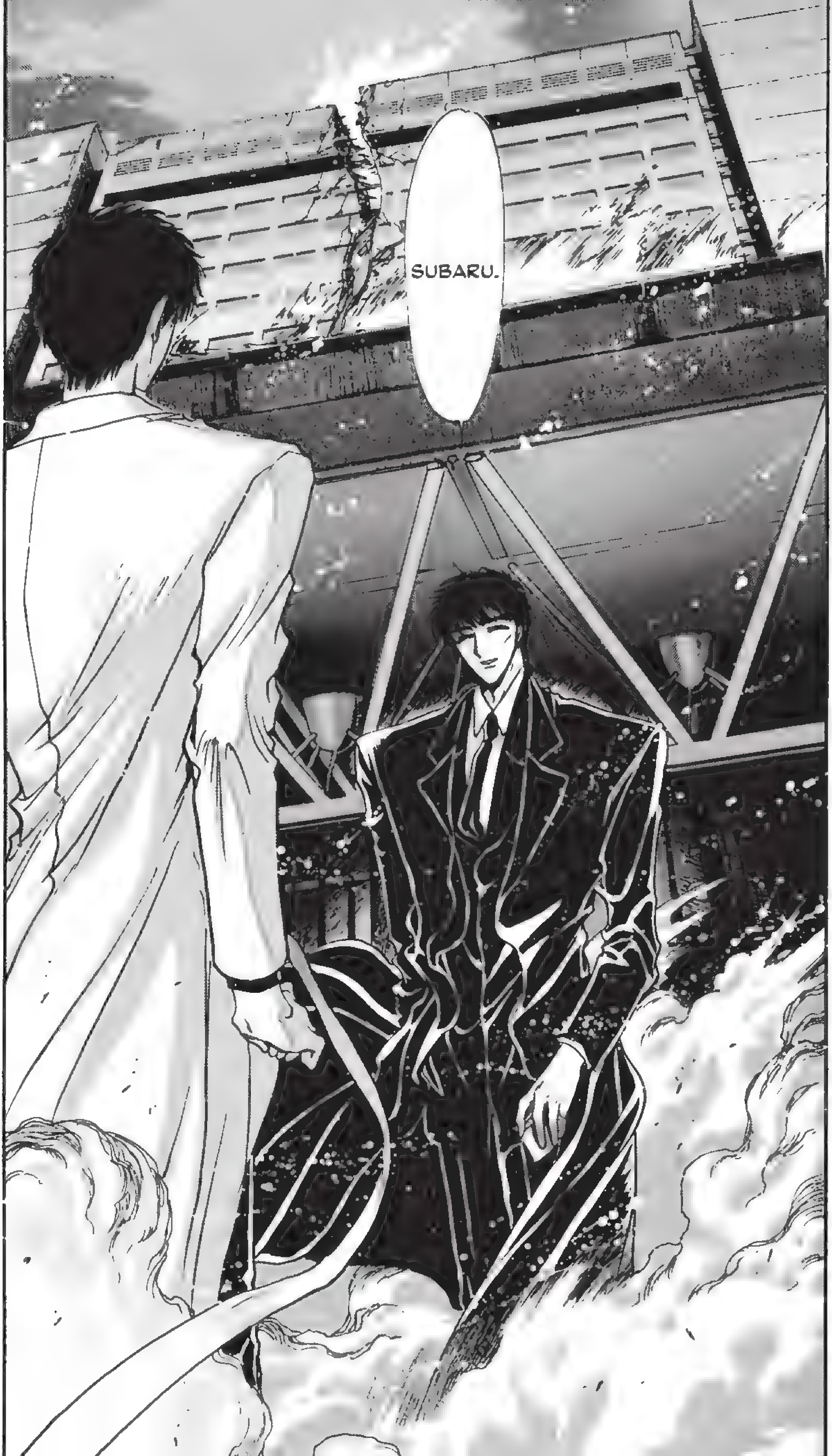

...THE EARTHQUAKE A LITTLE WHILE AGO?
RSTL...
YES, I DID.
ANOTHER KEKKAI...
SHAA

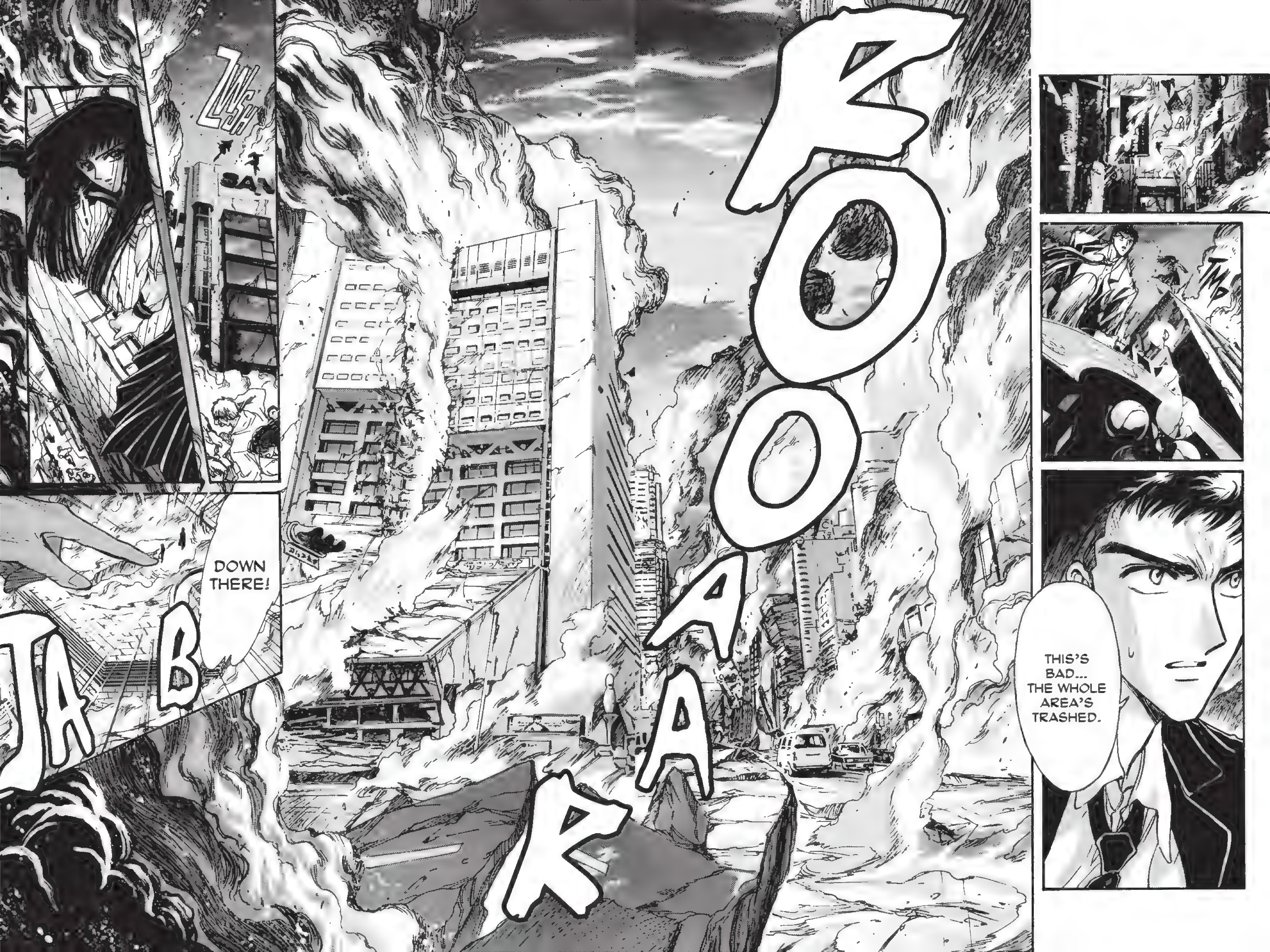

מיכאל
Michael
El. Elohim. Elohe. Zebaoth. Elion. Escherchie. Adonai
Tetragrammaton. Sadai. Jod. Ehere
Tetragrammaton
Elohim
ADONAI
...HAS BEEN BROKEN.

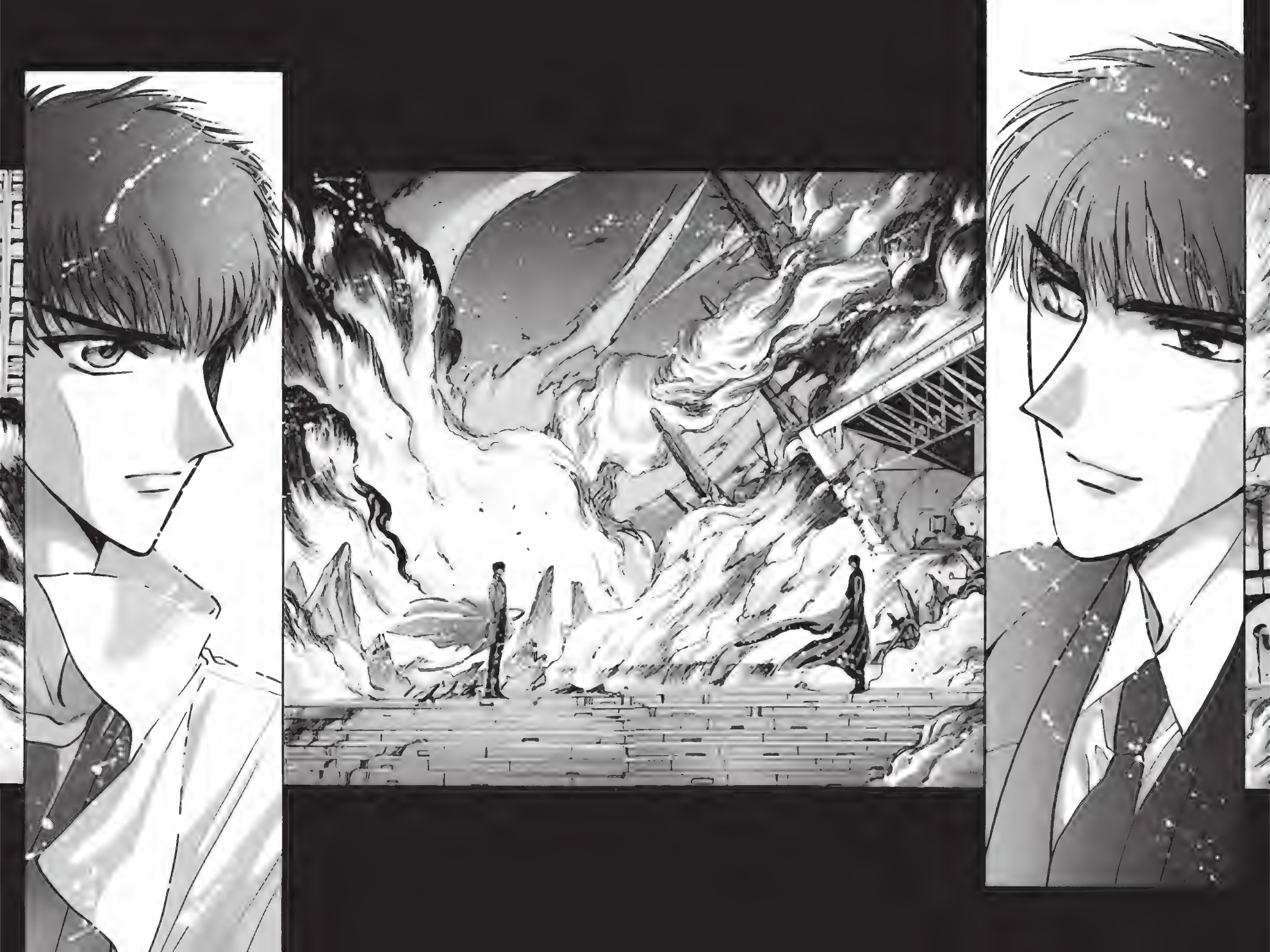

KAAOOK
KRAK
BOOM
GAH
USSSH
TMP
TMP

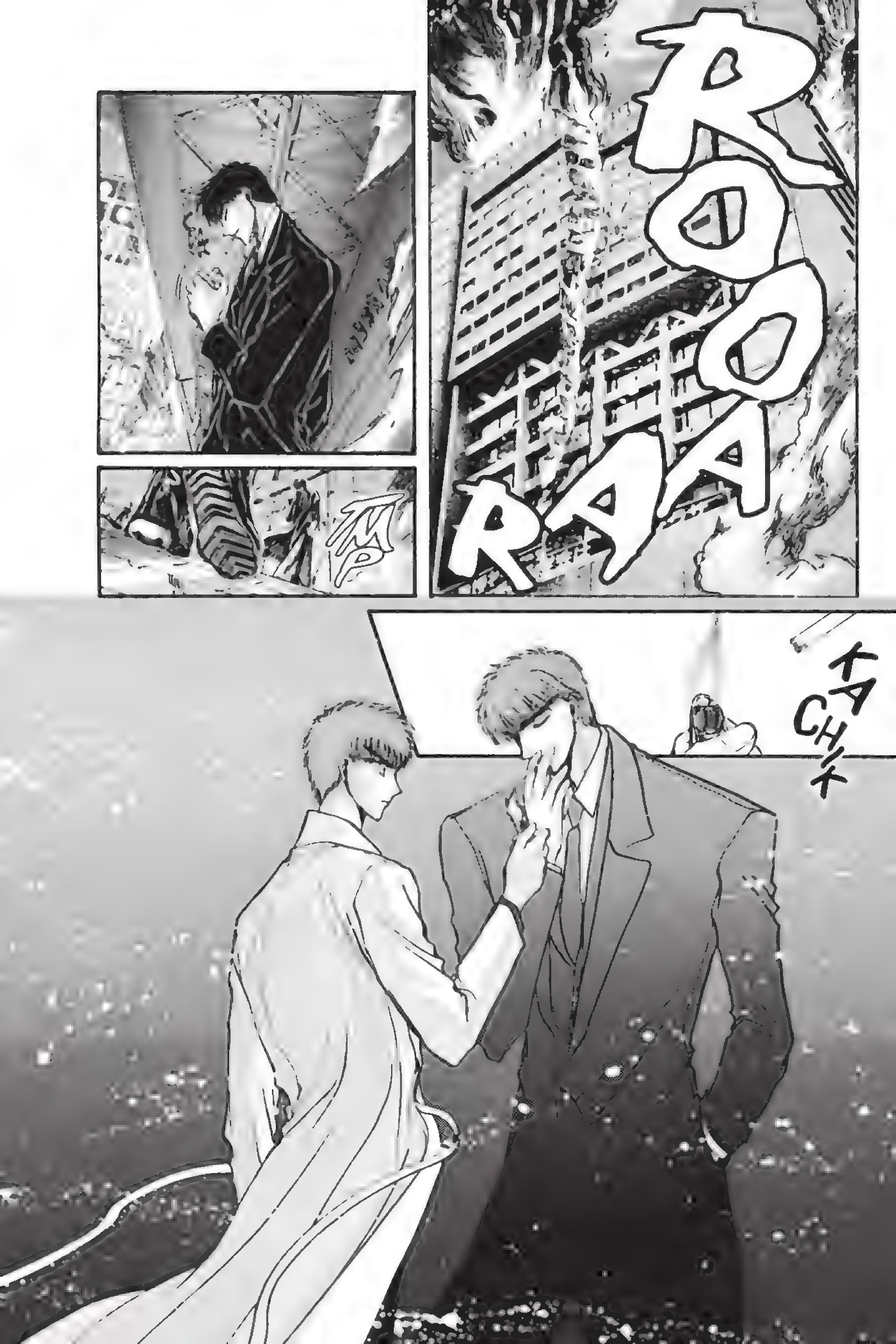

RAM
ROOORAA
RSTL

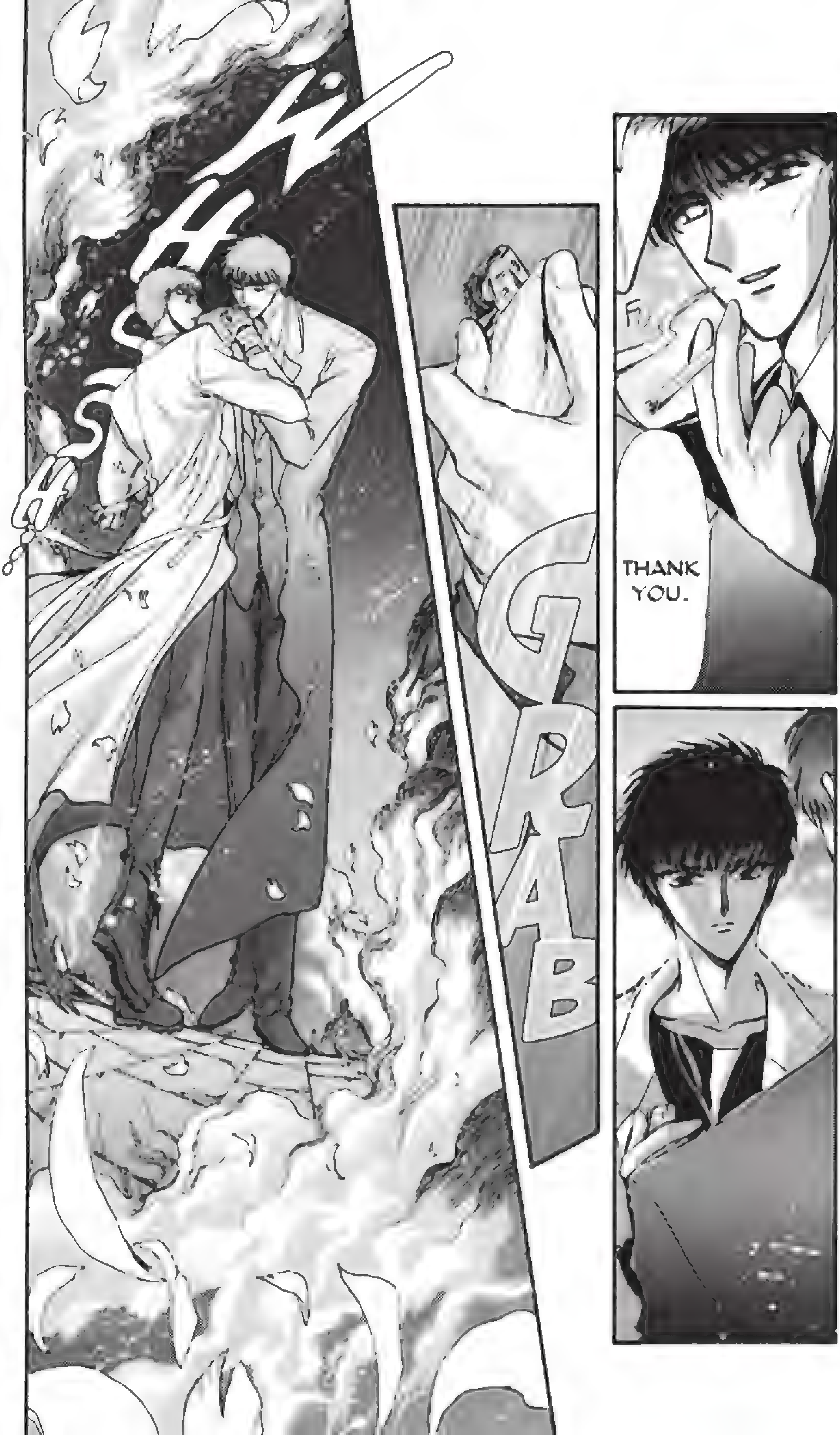

FWSH
FWPASH
SHK

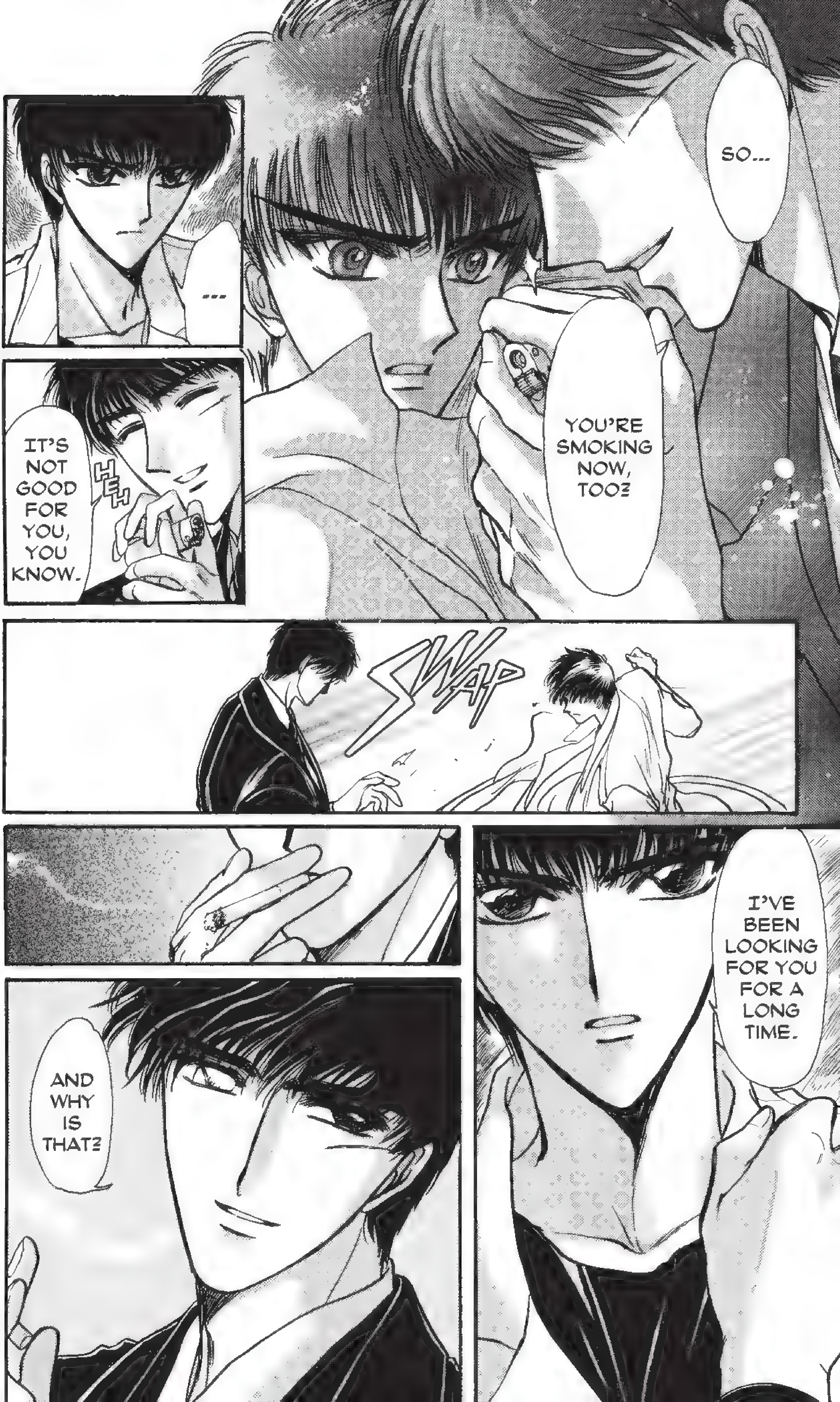

SUBARU.

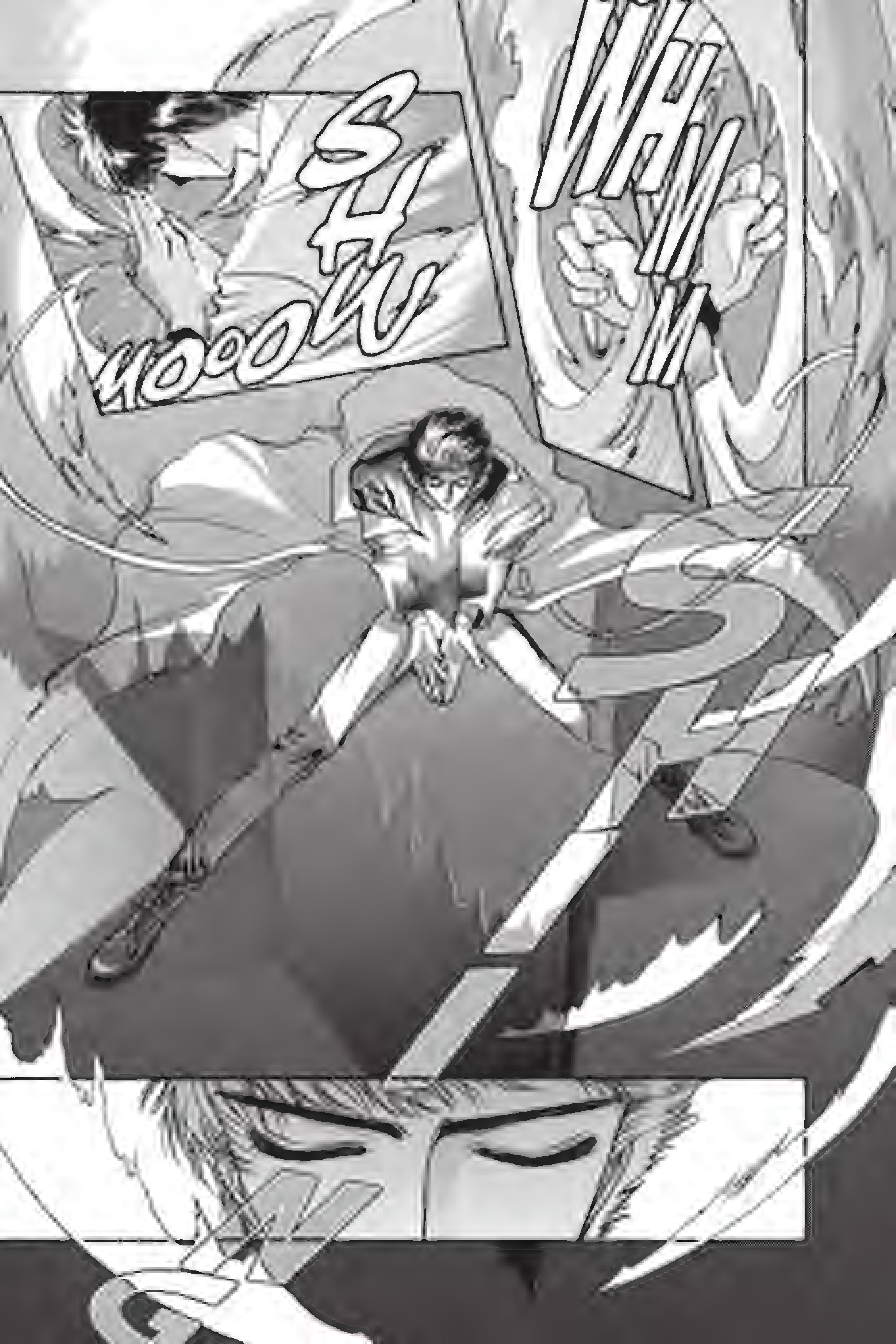

TMP
THIS'S BAD... THE WHOLE AREA'S TRASHED.
ROOAAR
ZWSH
DOWN THERE!
JAB

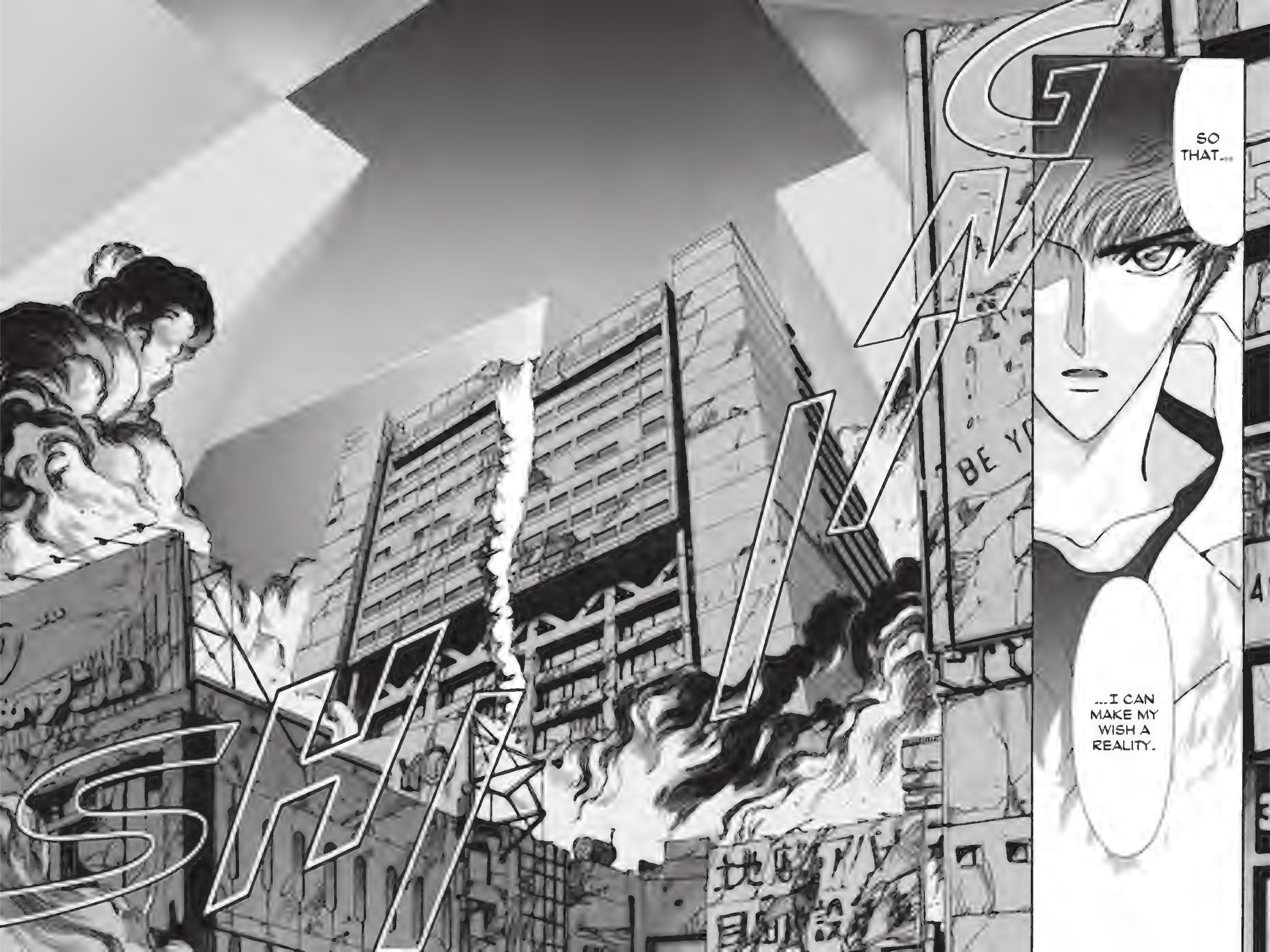


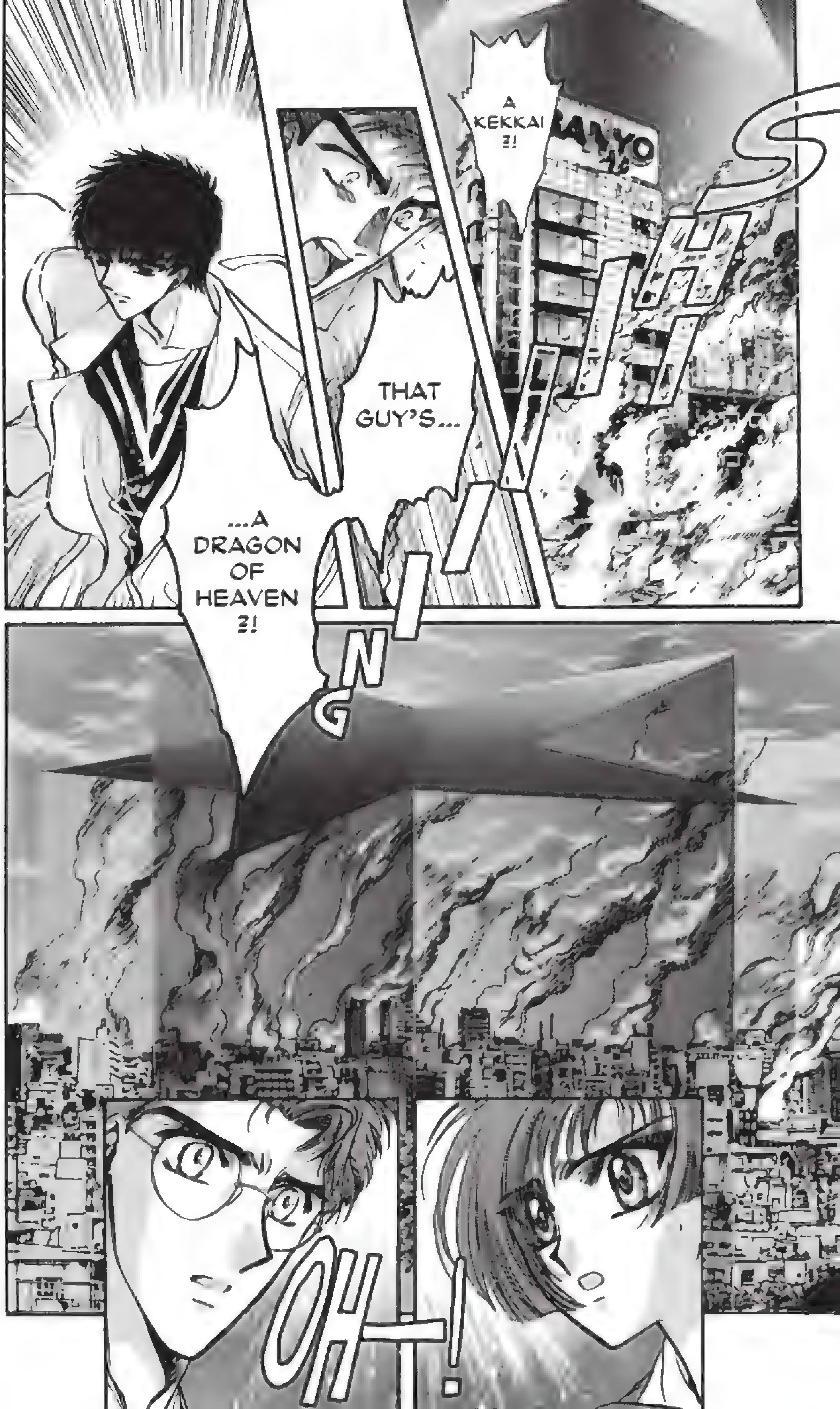

ROOAAAR
TMP
KA CHIK

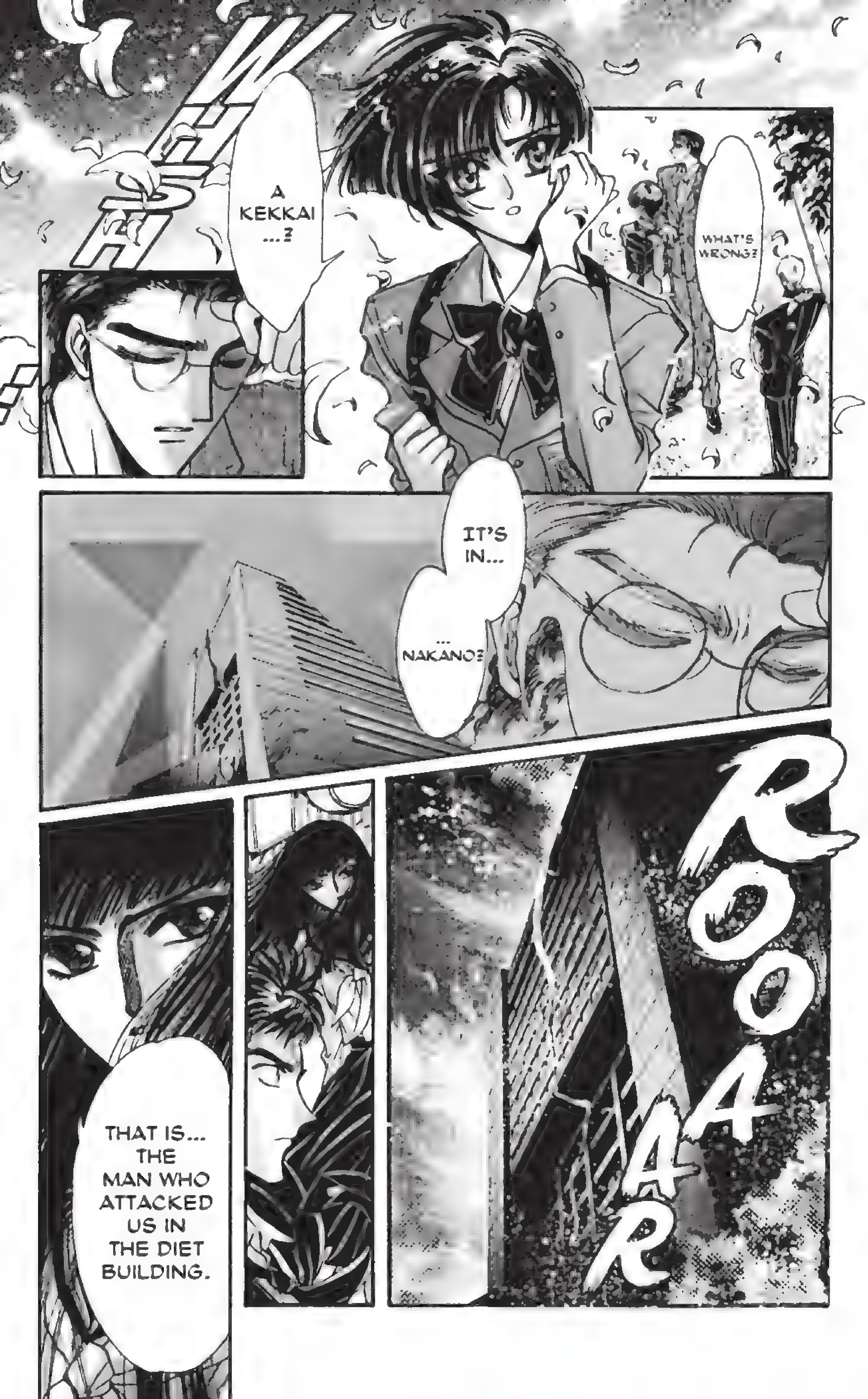

THANK YOU.
GRAB
WHSH

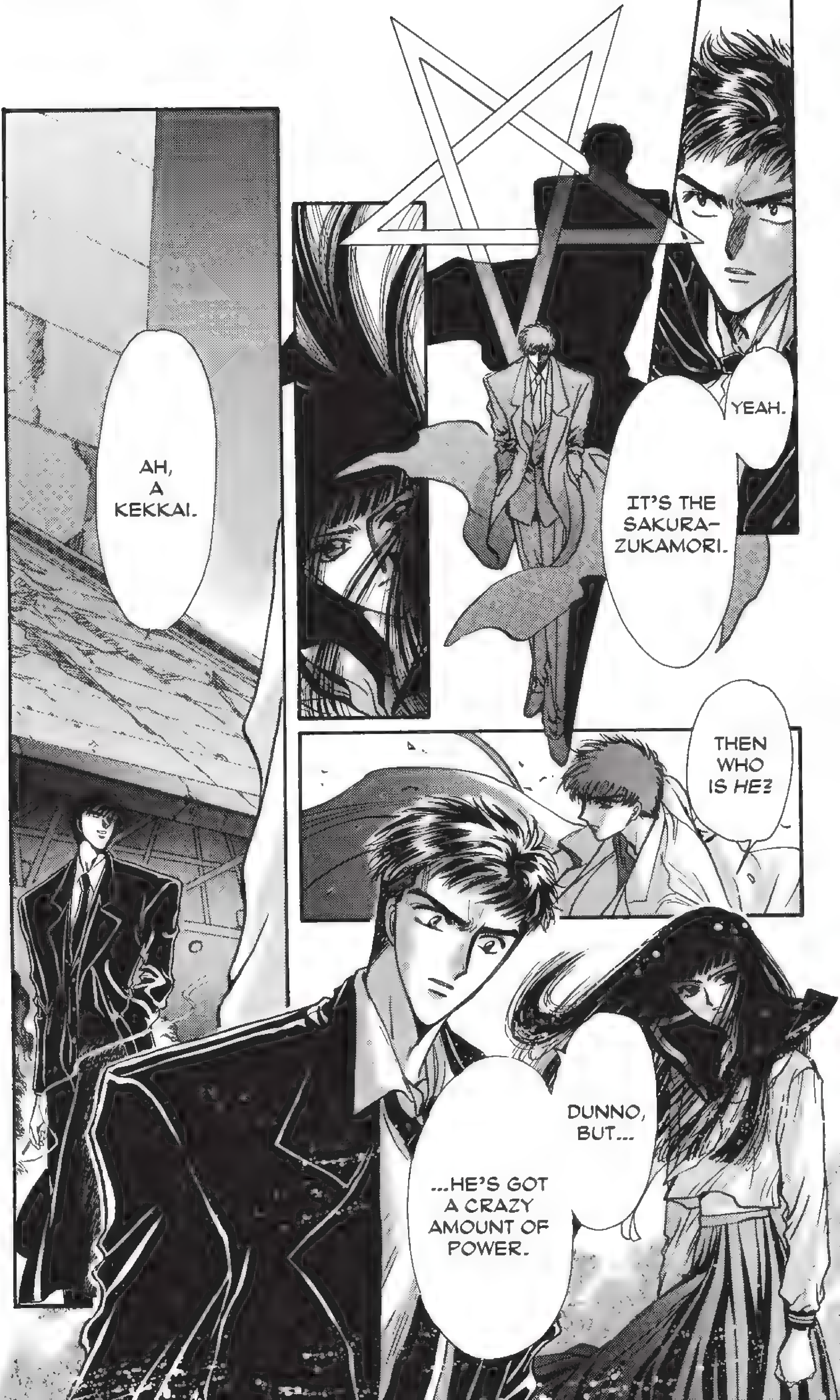

SO...
YOU'RE SMOKING NOW, TOO?
...
IT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOU, YOU KNOW.
HEH
SWAP
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU FOR A LONG TIME.
AND WHY IS THAT?

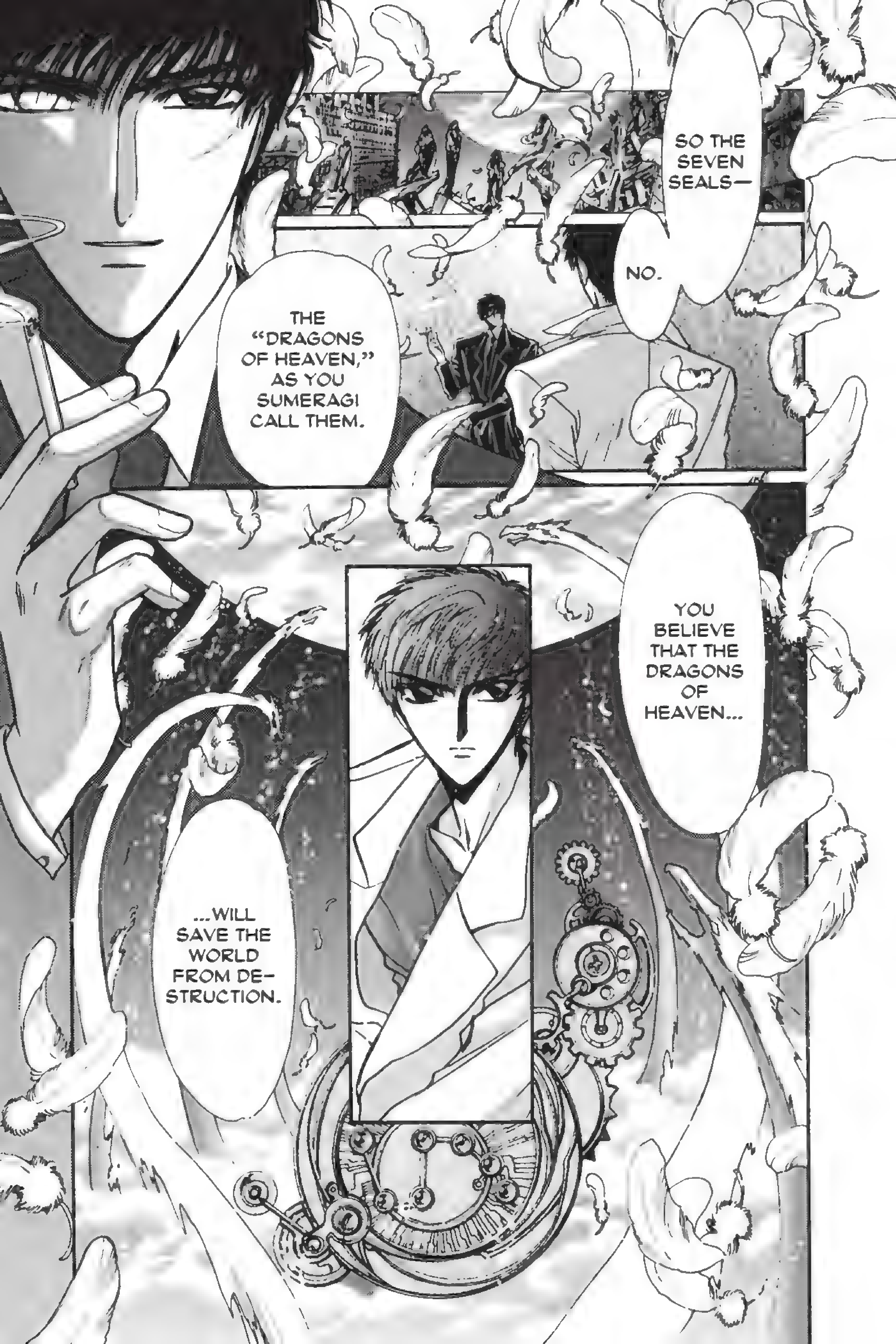

WHAM
SHWOOOH

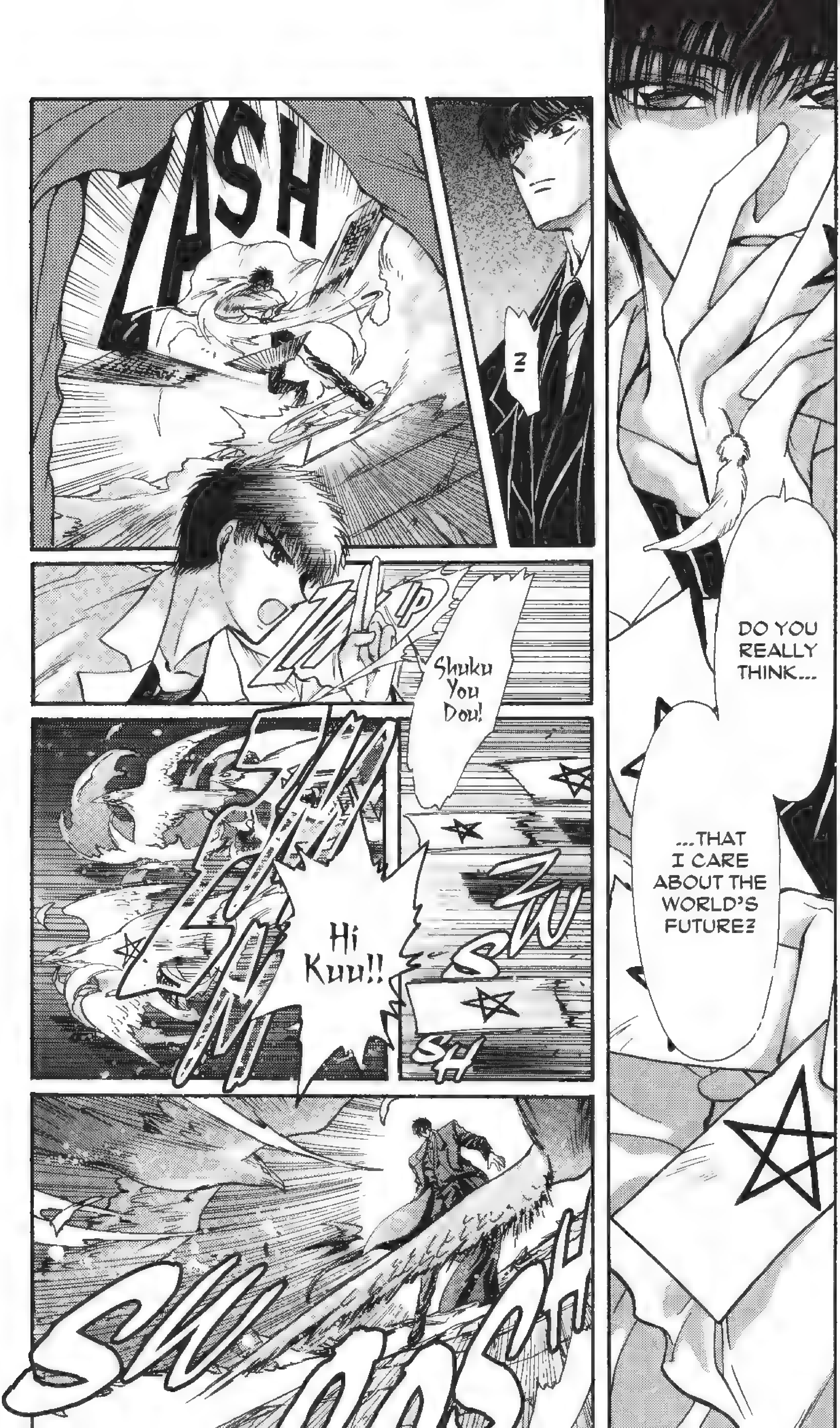

SO THAT...
...I CAN MAKE MY WISH A REALITY.
SHIING
BE Y

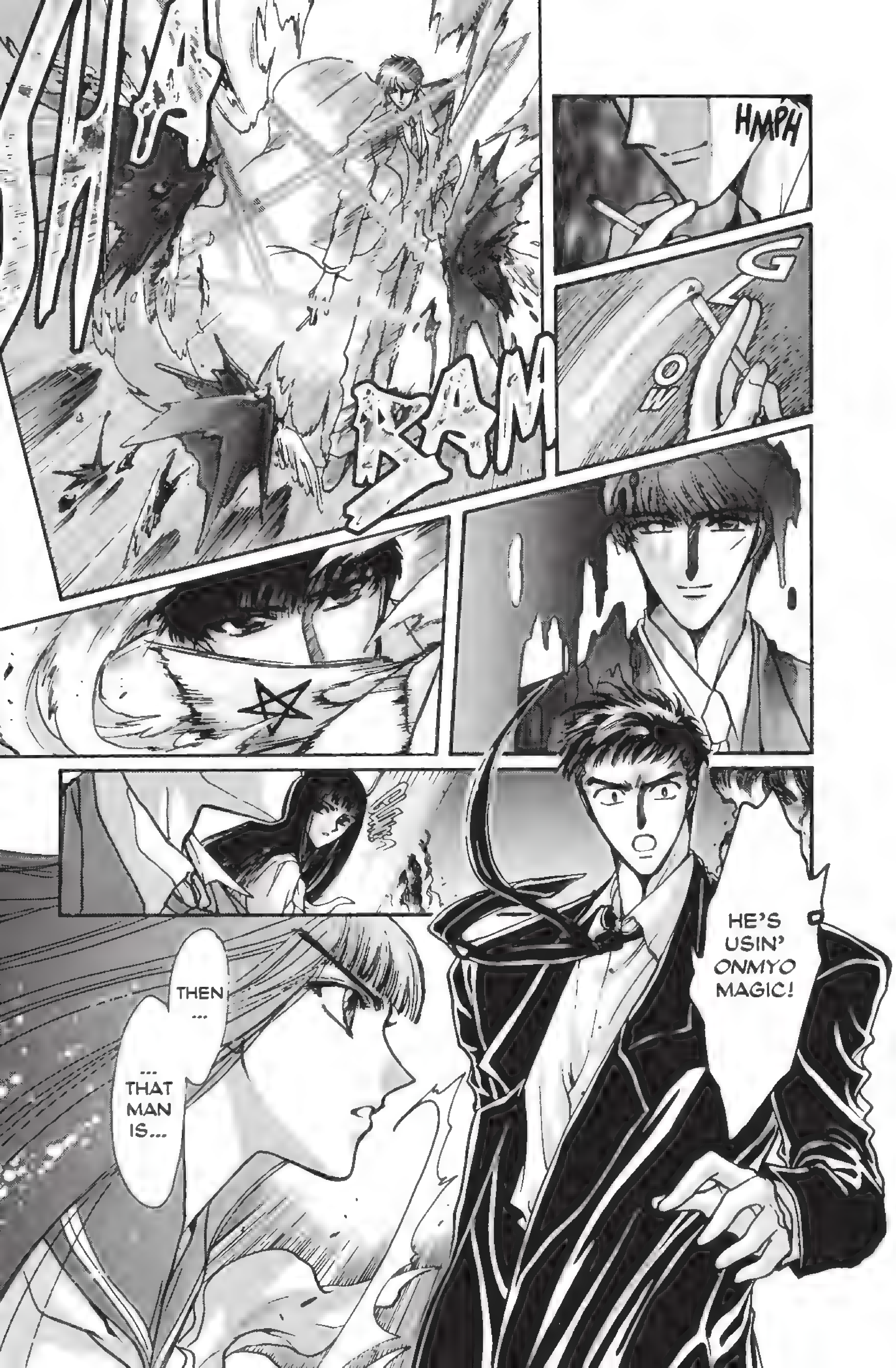

A KEKKAI ?!
ANYO
SHHHIIIAING
THAT GUY'S...
...A DRAGON OF HEAVEN ?!
OH—!

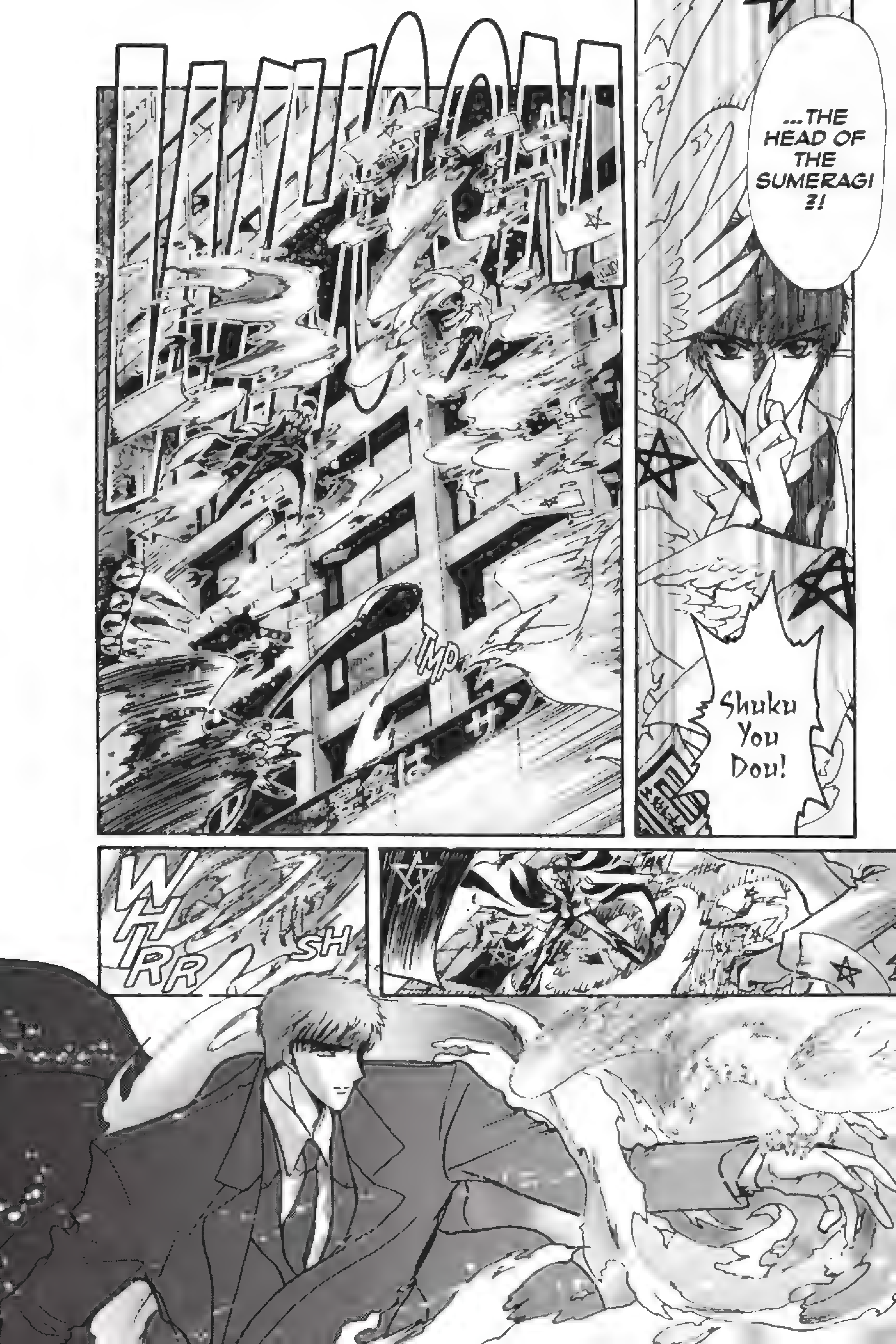

WHASH
A KEKKAI ...?
WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S IN...
... NAKANO?
THAT IS... THE MAN WHO ATTACKED US IN THE DIET BUILDING.
ROOAAAR

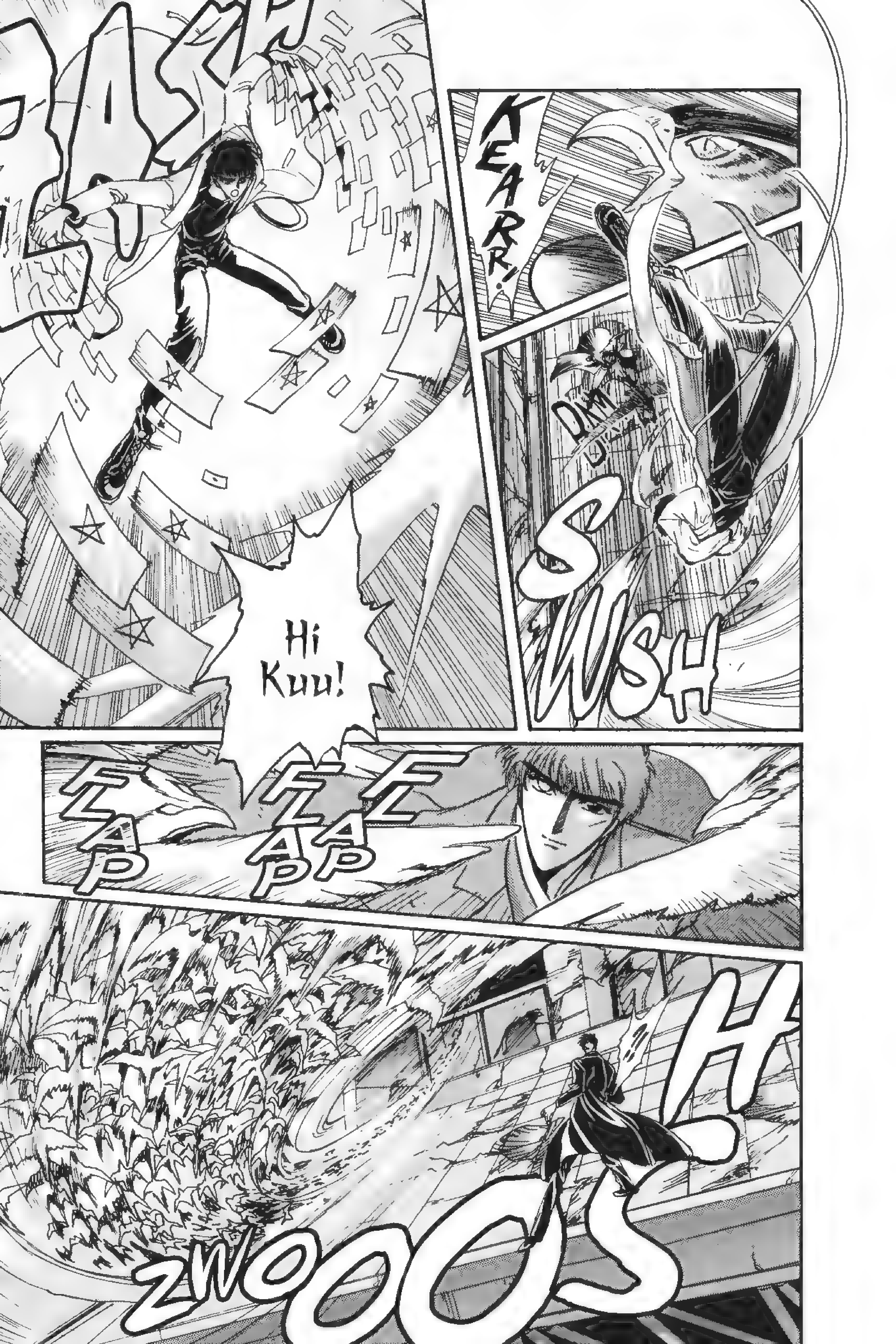

YEAH.
IT'S THE SAKURA-ZUKAMORI.
AH, A KEKKAI.
THEN WHO IS *HE*?
DUNNO, BUT...
...HE'S GOT A CRAZY AMOUNT OF POWER.

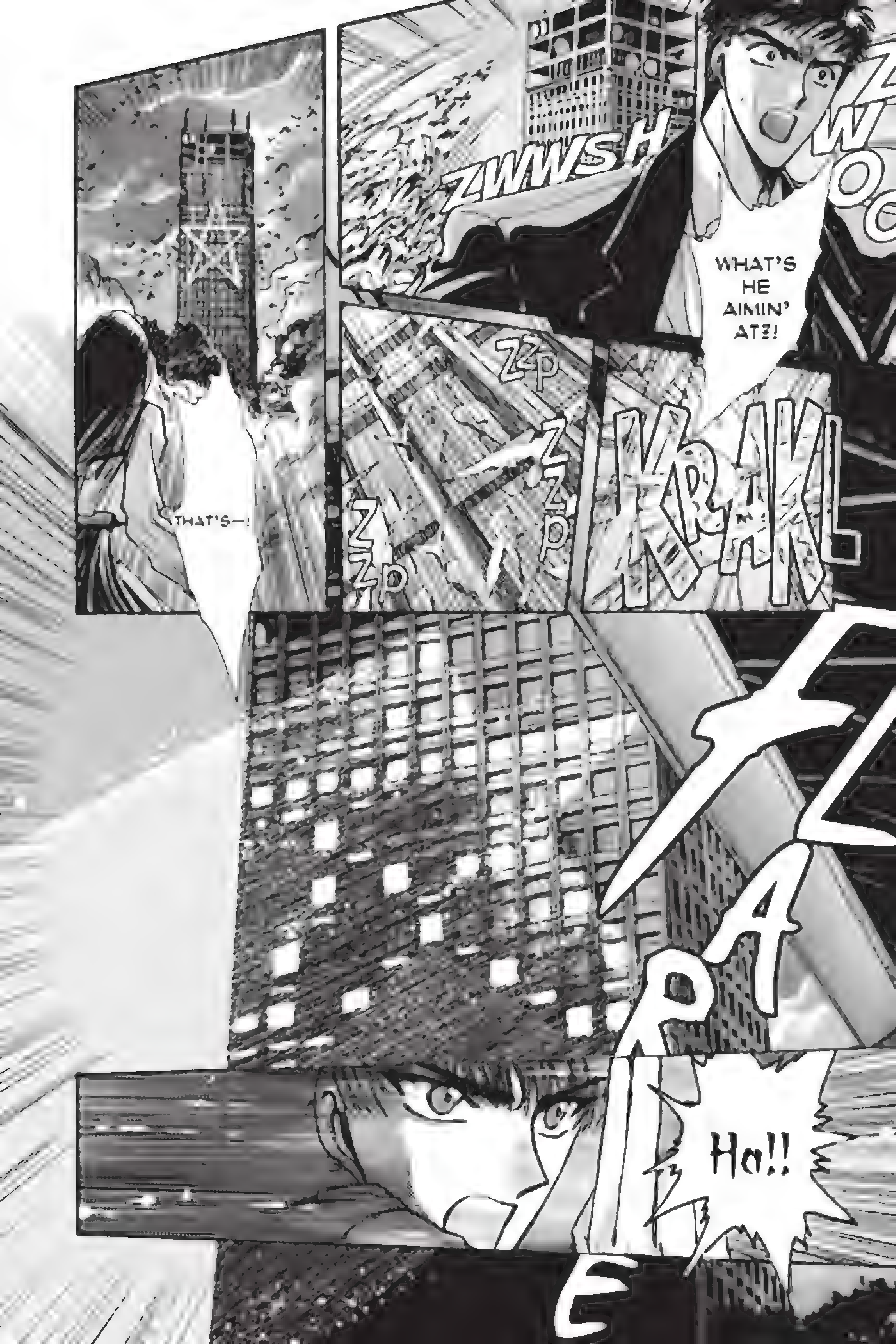

SO THE SEVEN SEALS—
NO.
THE "DRAGONS OF HEAVEN," AS YOU SUMERAGI CALL THEM.
YOU BELIEVE THAT THE DRAGONS OF HEAVEN...
...WILL SAVE THE WORLD FROM DESTRUCTION.

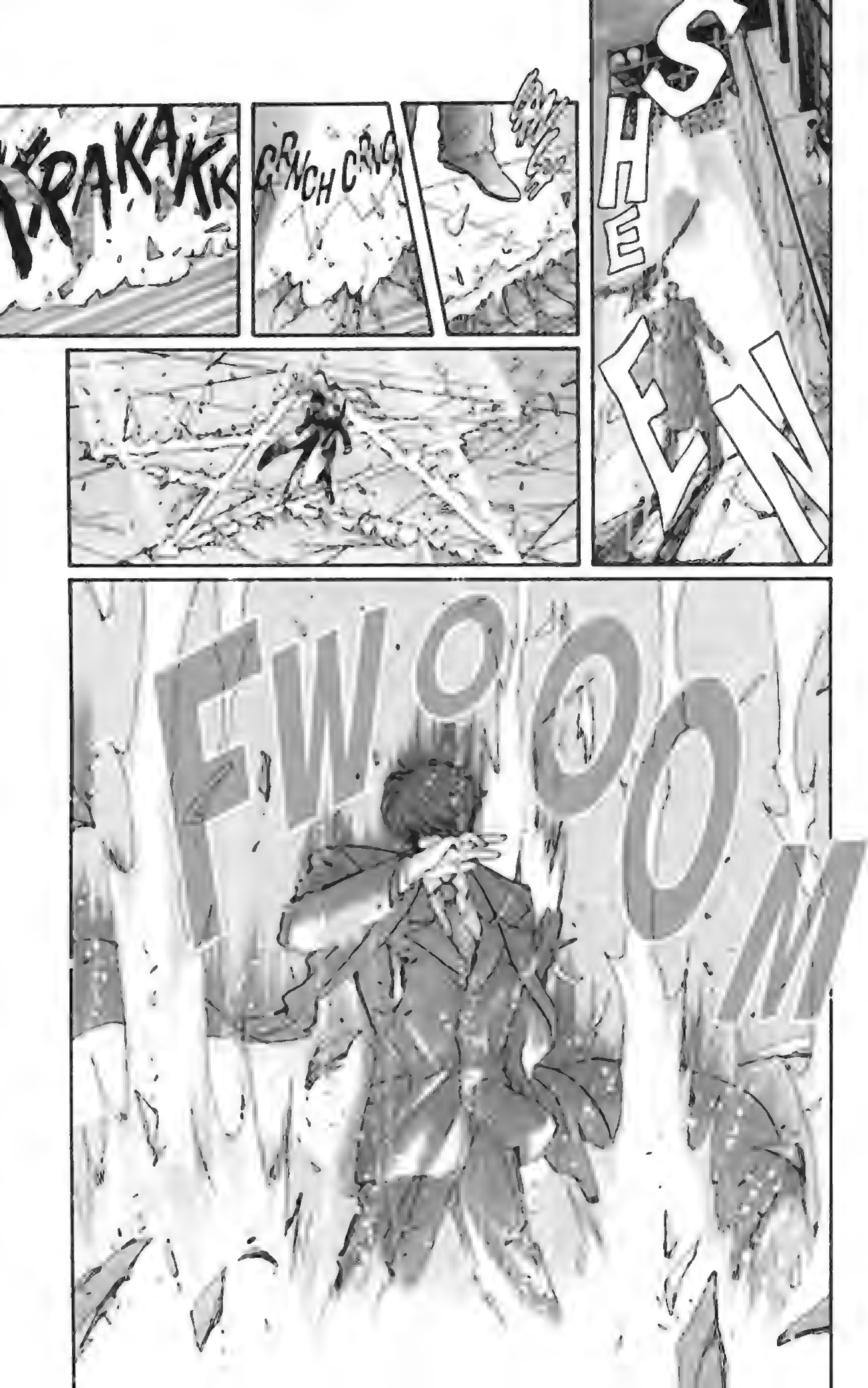

DO YOU REALLY THINK...
...THAT I CARE ABOUT THE WORLD'S FUTURE?
!?
ZASH
ZIP
Shuku You Dou!
Hi Kuu!!
SH

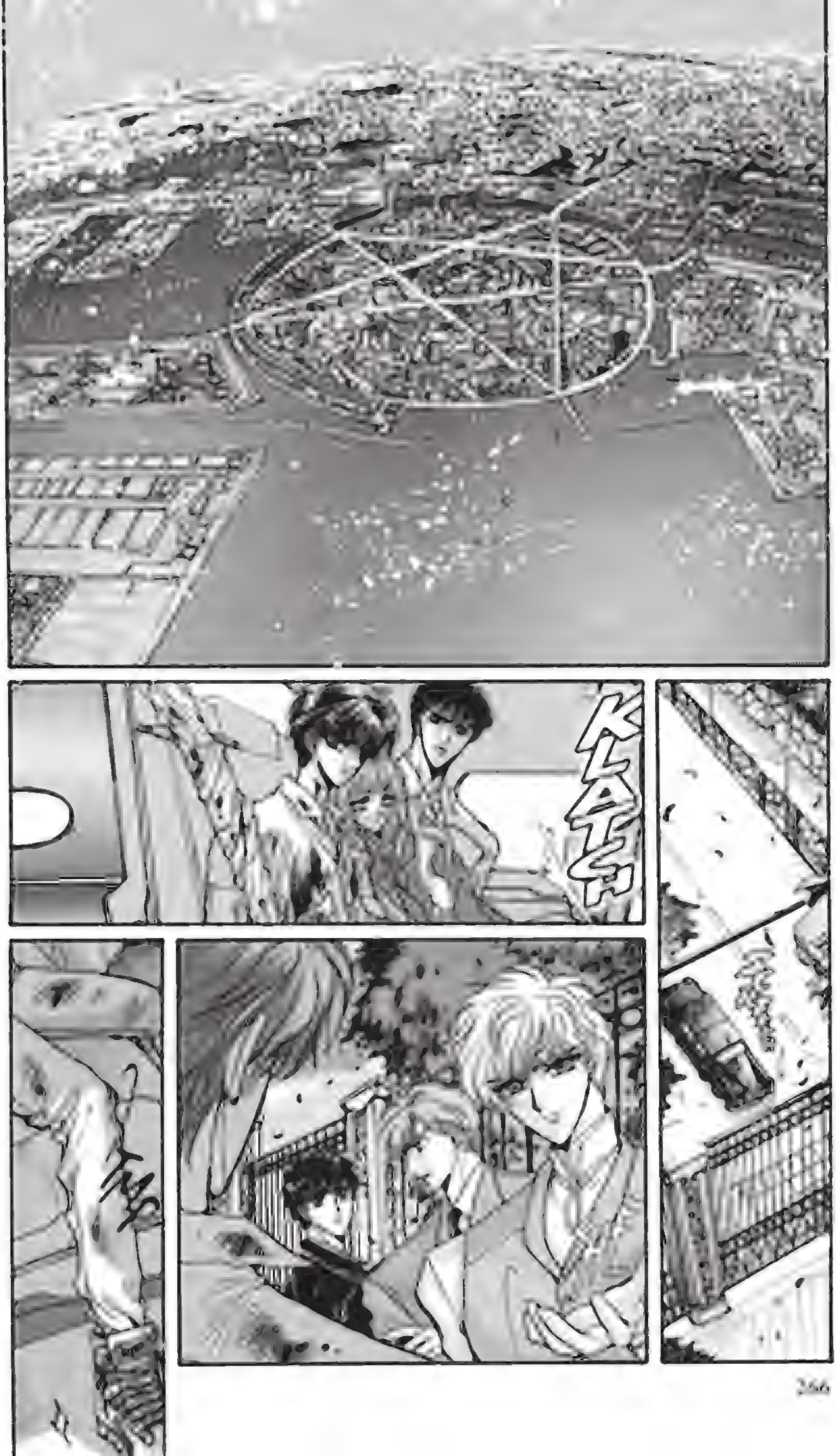

HMAPH
G
BAM
HE'S USIN' ONMYO MAGIC!
THEN ...
... THAT MAN IS...

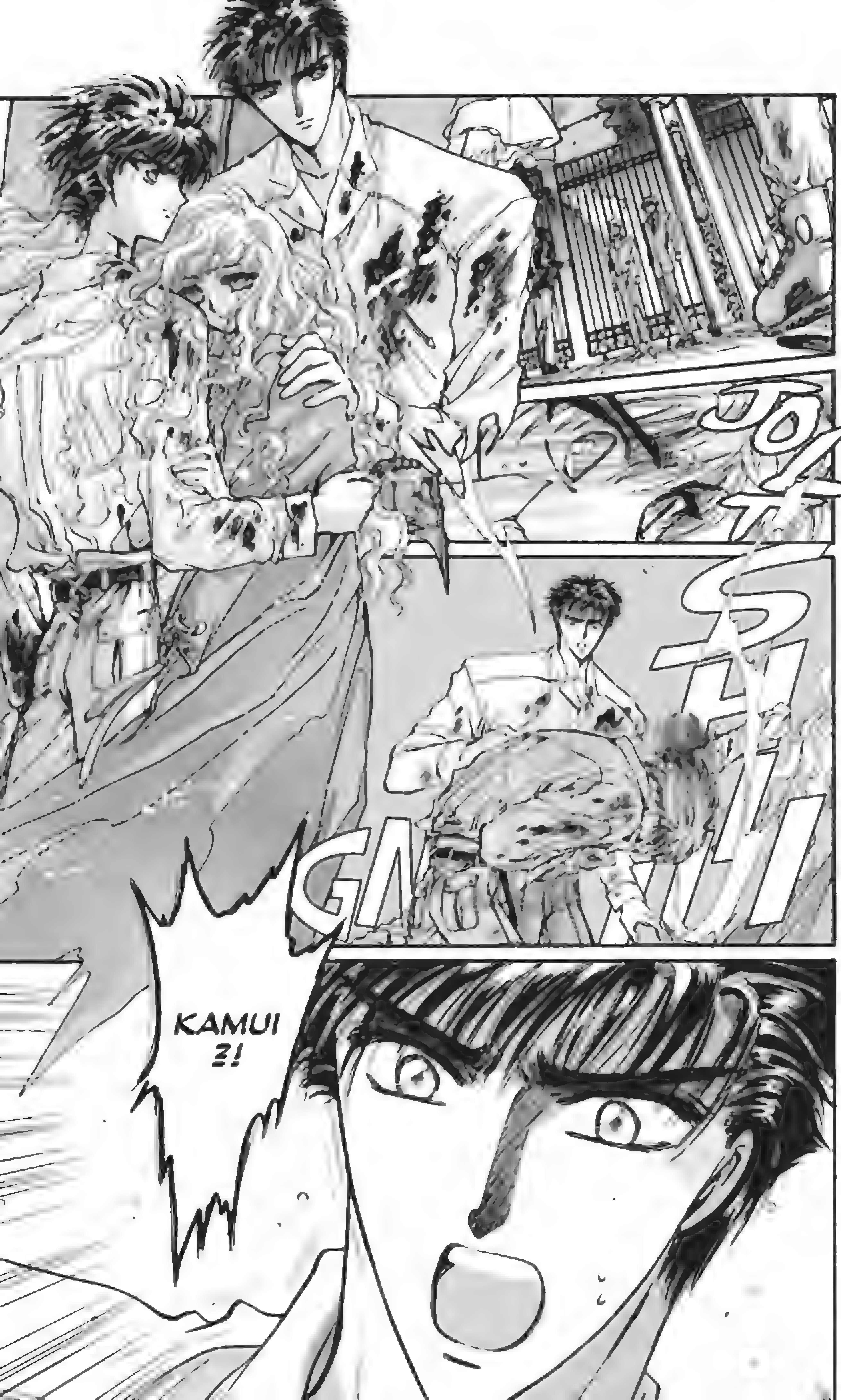

...THE HEAD OF THE SUMERAGI ?!
WHOOM
TMP
Shuku You Dou!
TAK
WHIRR
SH

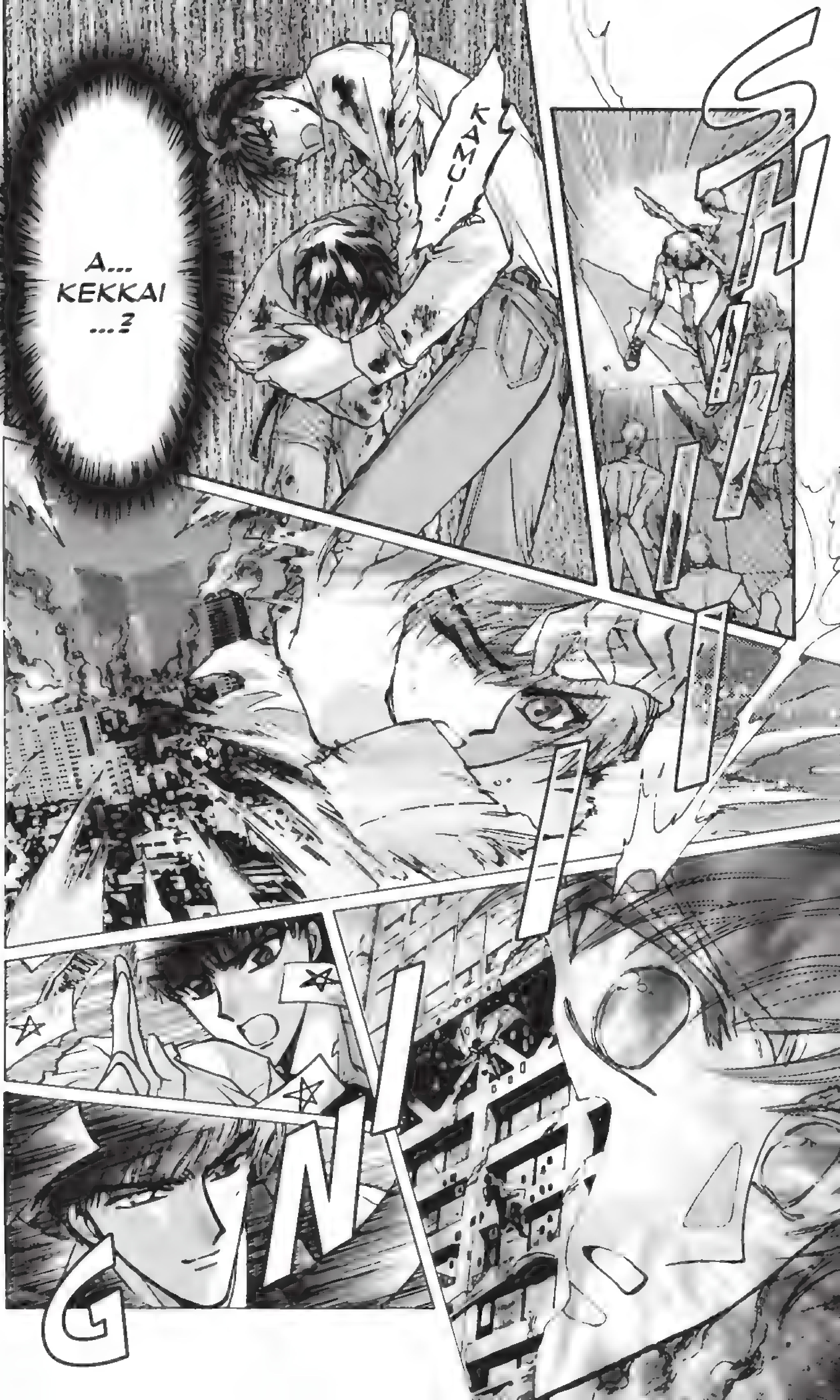

KEARR!
ASH!
SWISH
Hi Kuu!
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
ZWOOOOSH

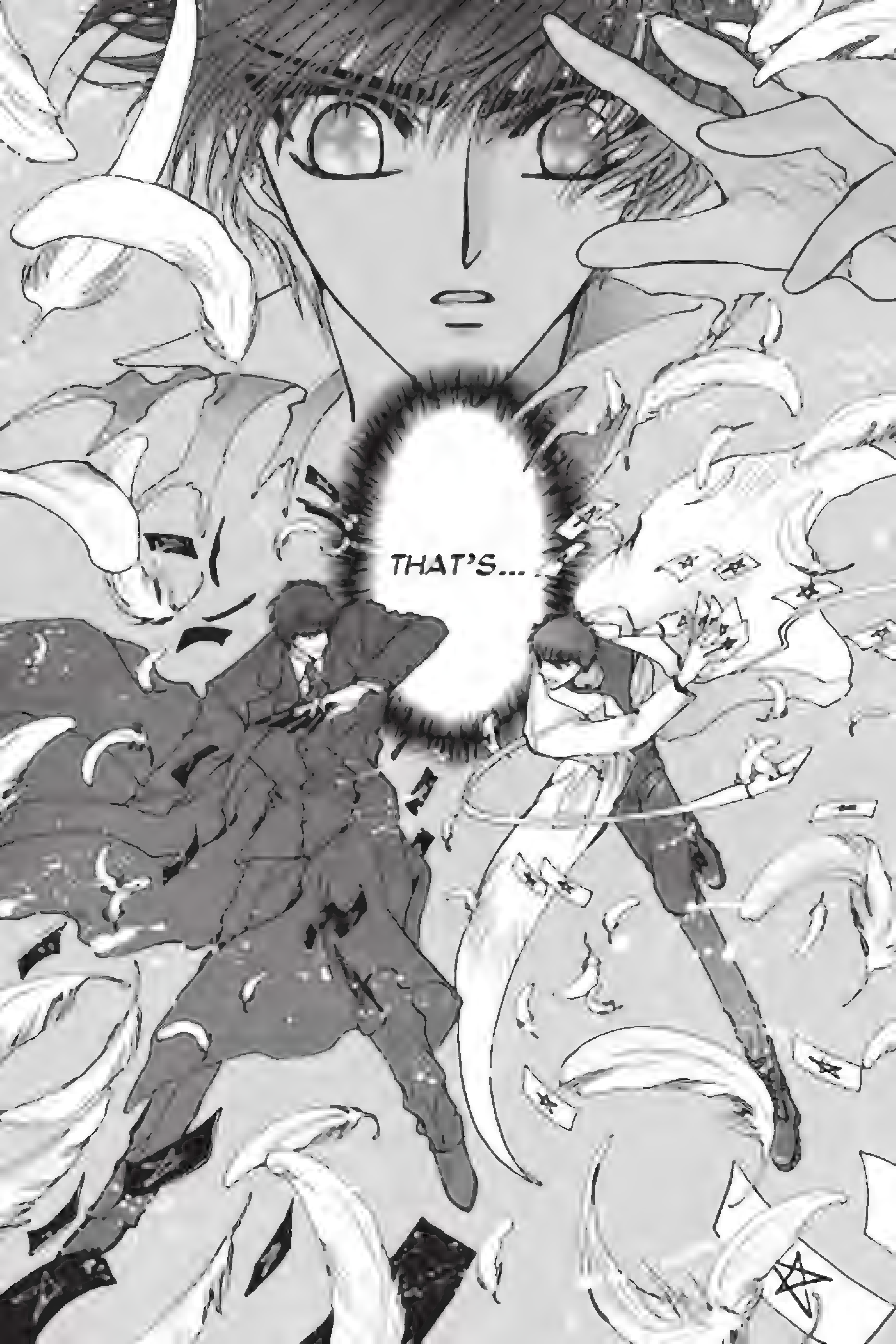

ZWWSH
ZWOO
WHAT'S HE AIMIN' AT?!
THAT'S—!
KRAKL
ZZp
ZZp
ZZp
ZAPA
Ha!!

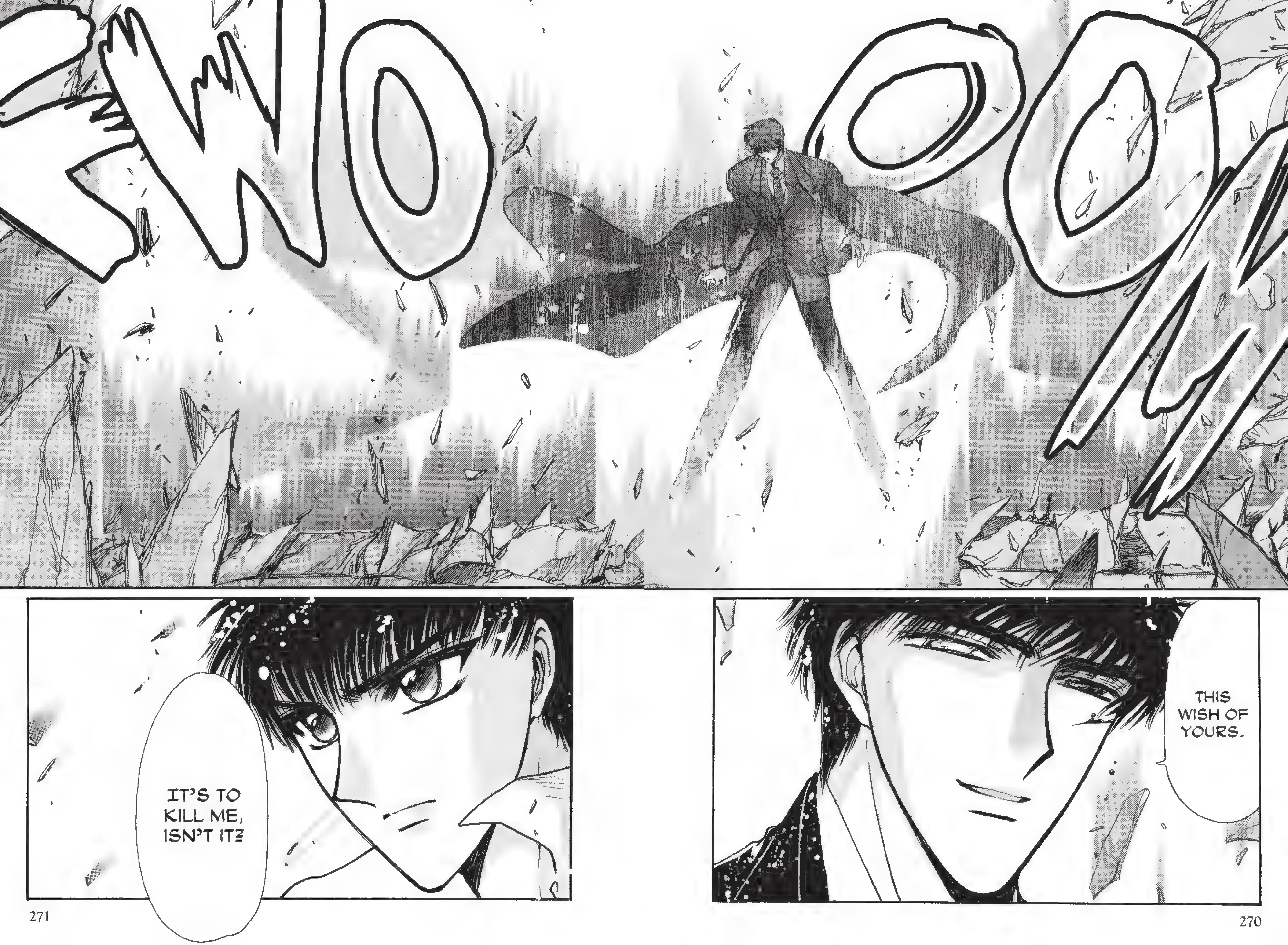

KRAKAKKK
CRNCH CRNCH
SHEEN
FWOOOM

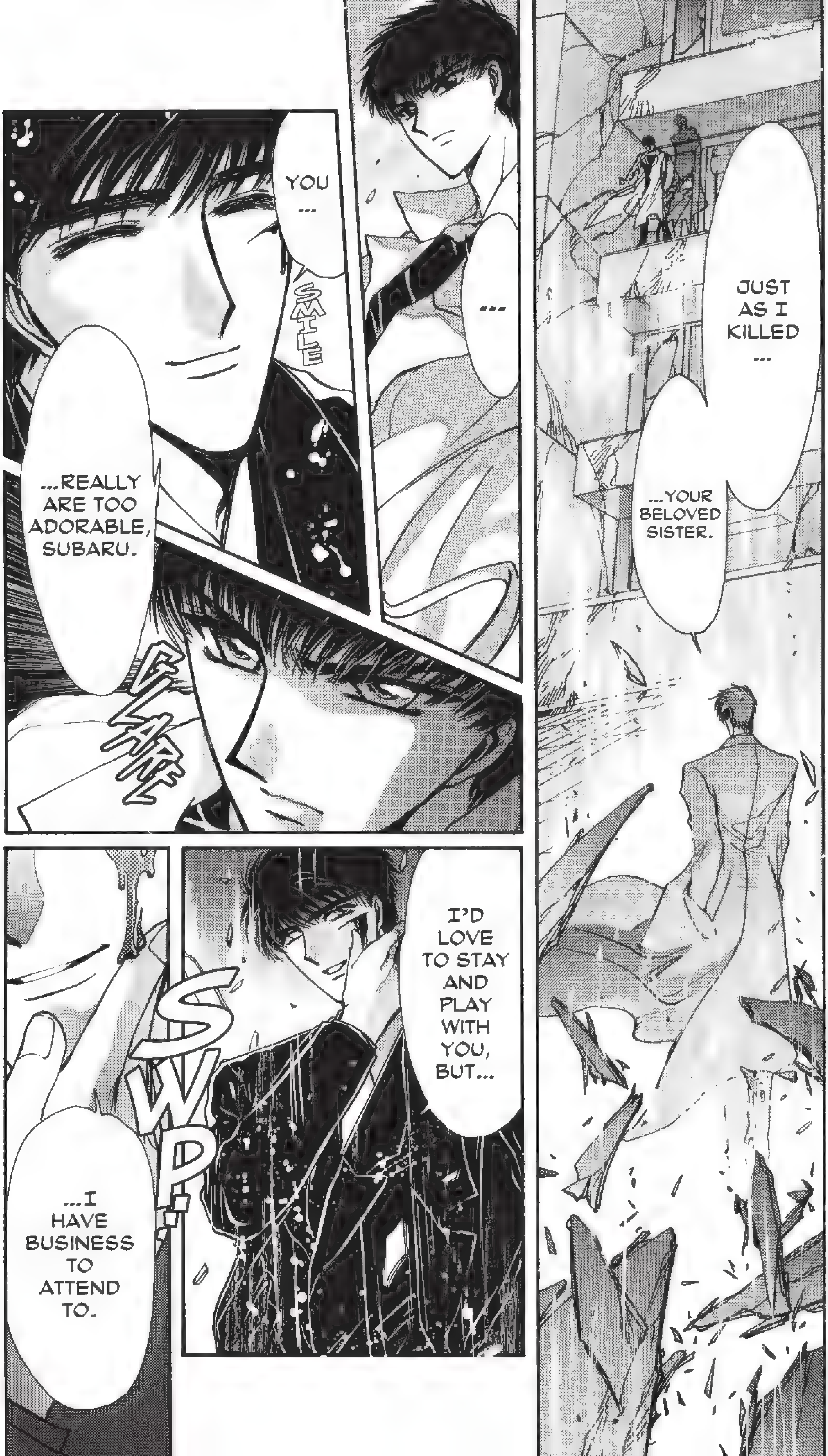

KLATCH

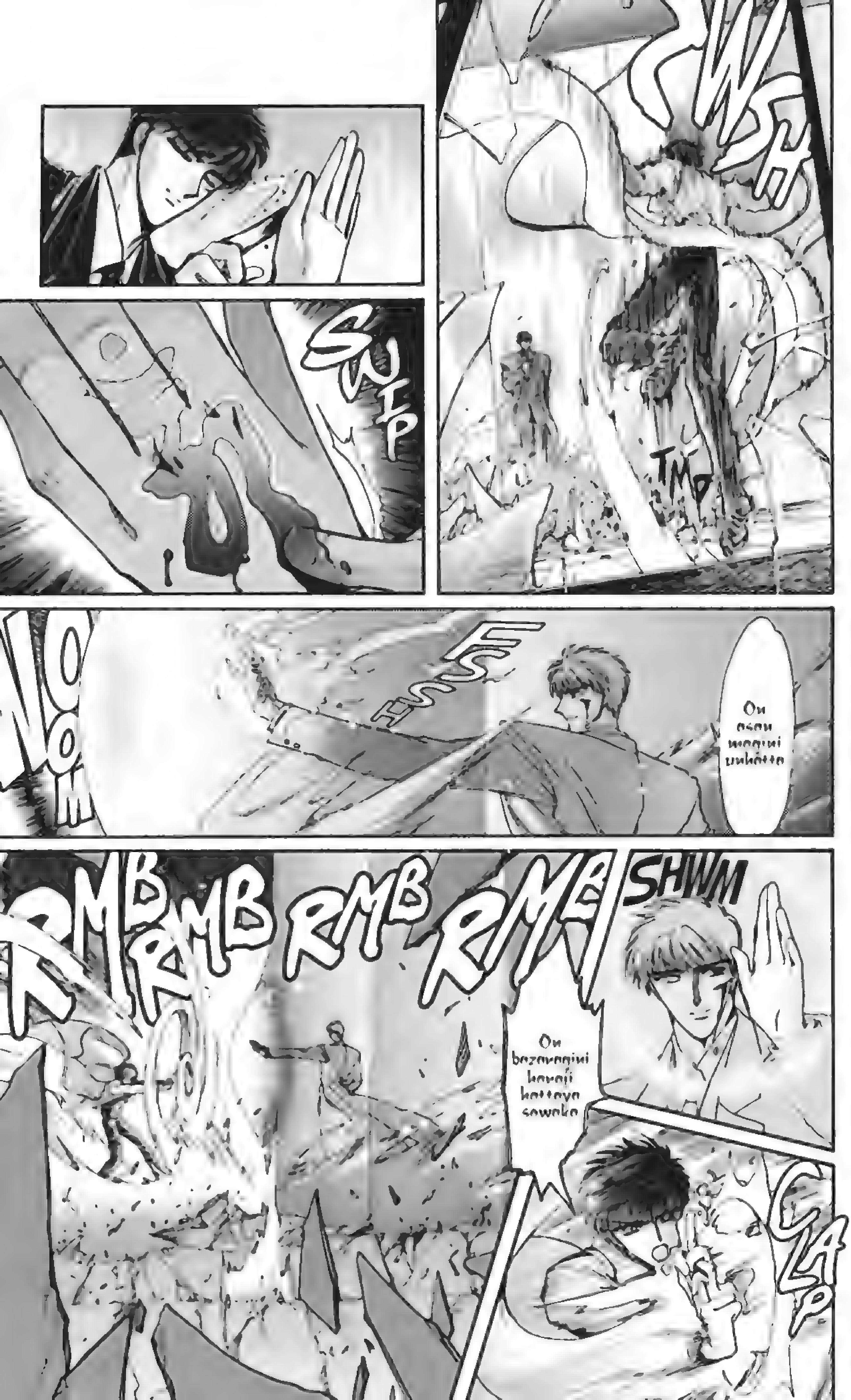

GA
KAMUI ?!

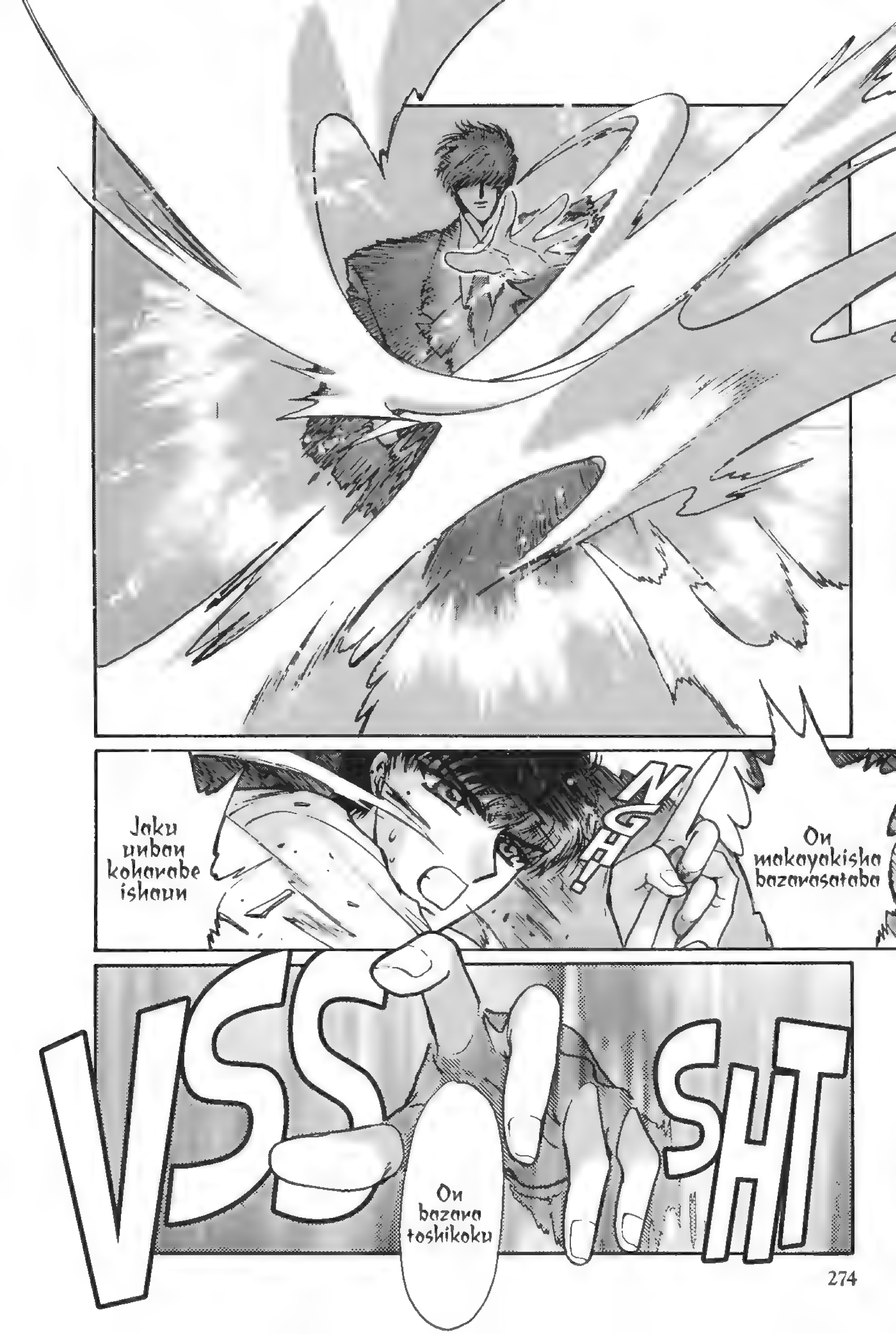

KAMUI...!
A... KEKKAI ...?
SHIIIII
GIN

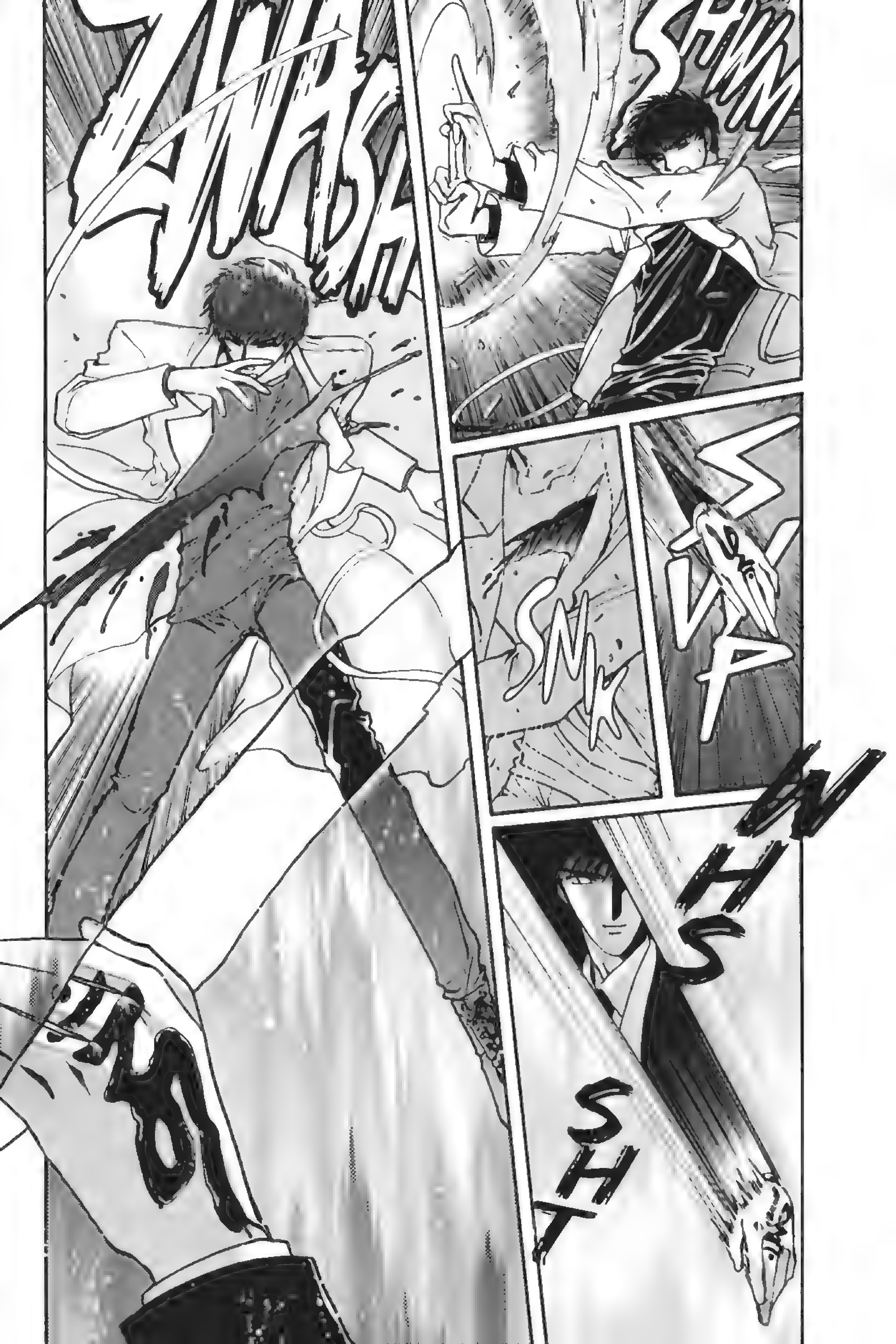

THAT'S...

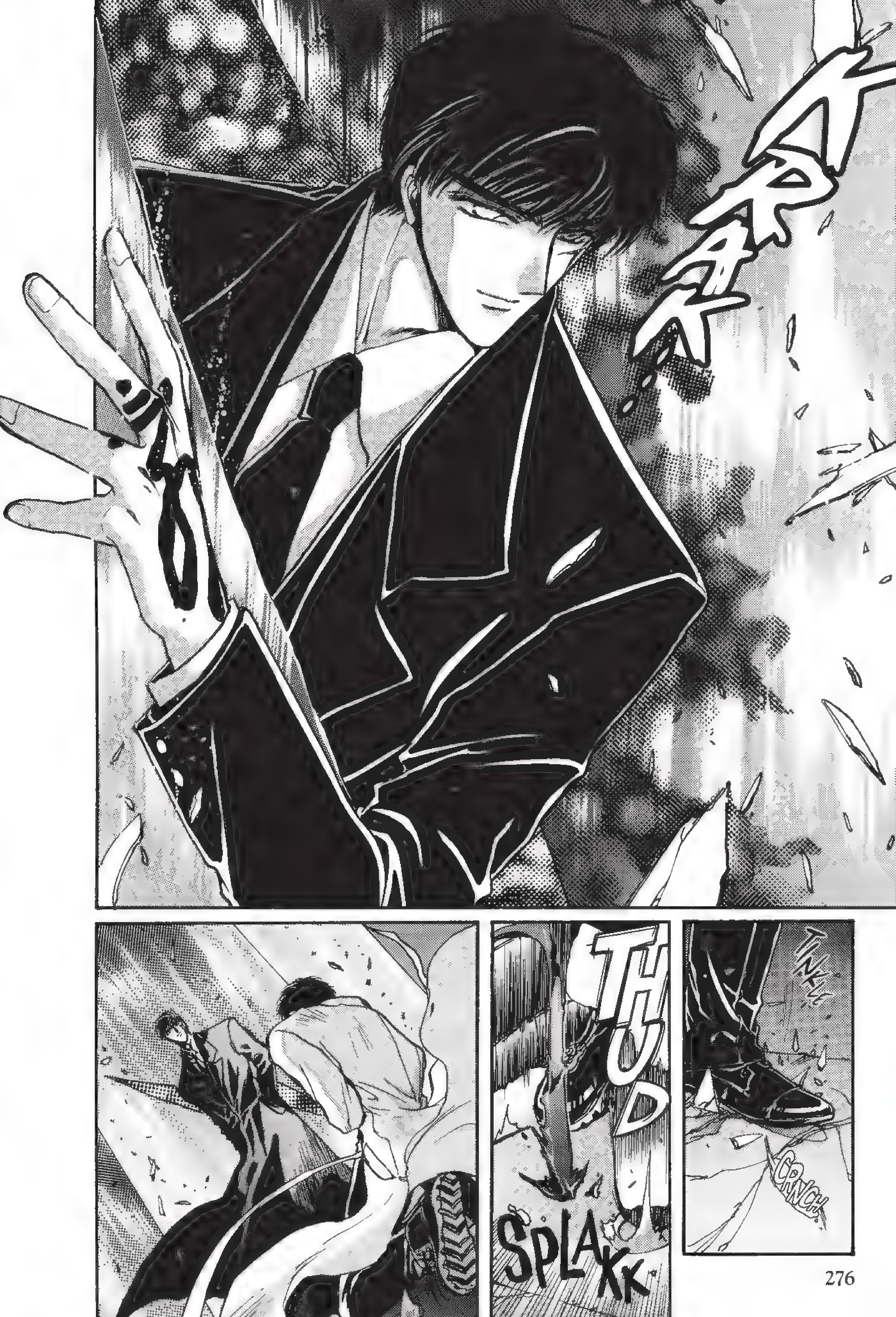

WOOOM
THIS WISH OF YOURS.
IT'S TO KILL ME, ISN'T IT?

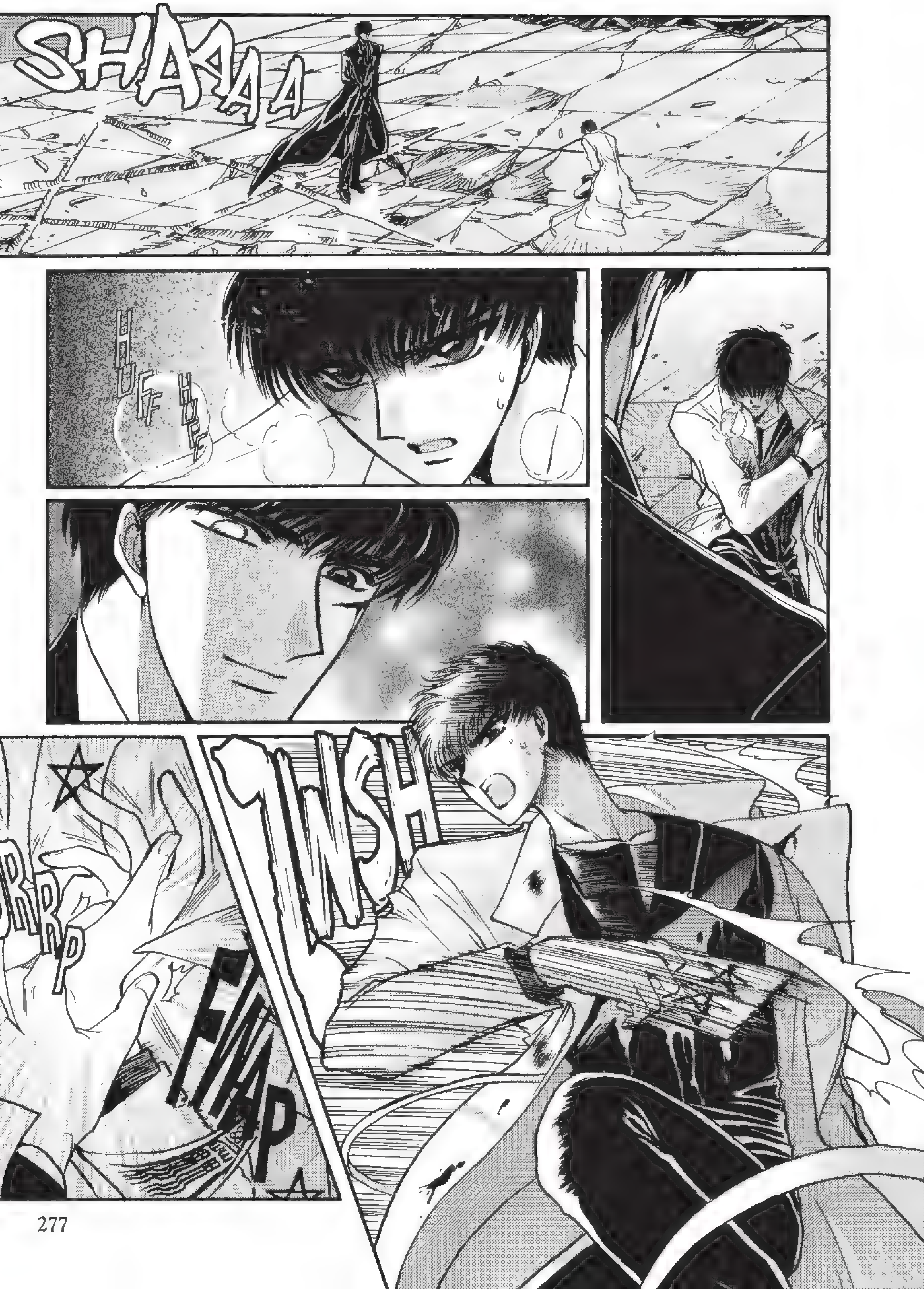

JUST AS I KILLED ...
...YOUR BELOVED SISTER.
...
YOU ...
SMILE
...REALLY ARE TOO ADORABLE, SUBARU.
GLARE
I'D LOVE TO STAY AND PLAY WITH YOU, BUT...
SWP
...I HAVE BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO.

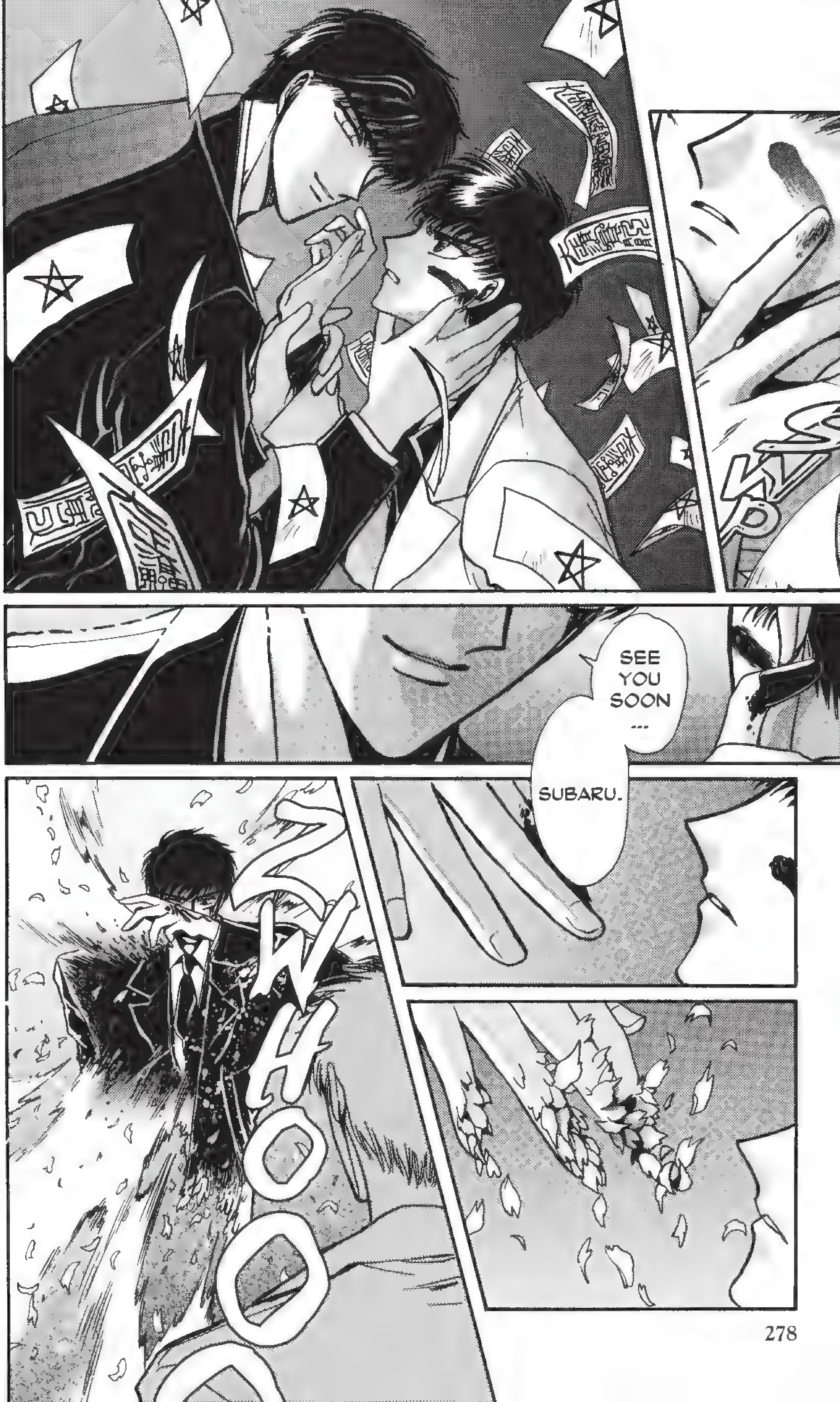

WSH
TMP
SWIP
On asau magini unhatta
FSSH
WOOM
SHWM
RMB RMB RMB RMB
On bazaragini haraji hattaya sowaka
CLAP

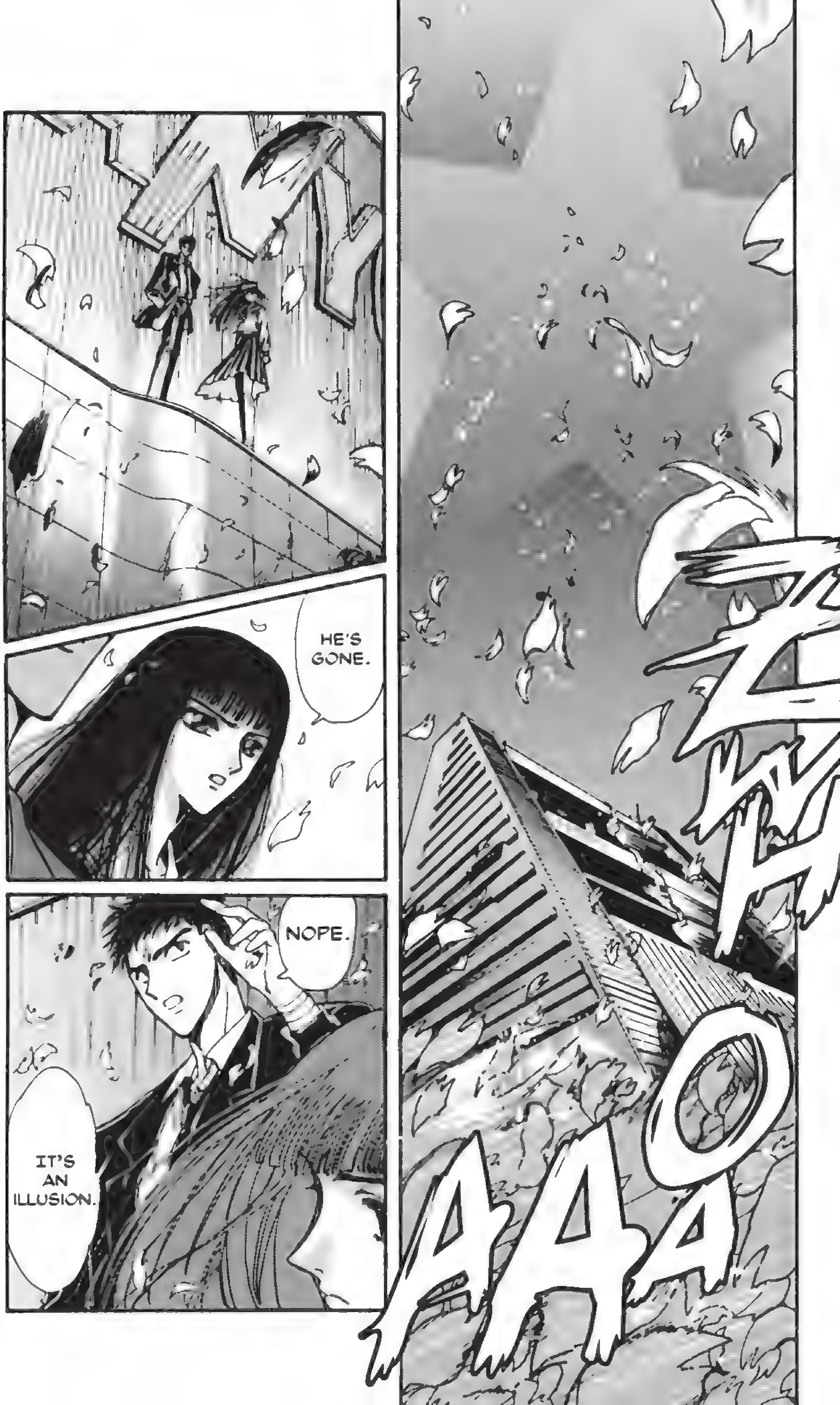

On makayakisha bazarasataba
NGH!
Jaku unban koharabe ishaun
VSS-SHT
On bazara toshikoku

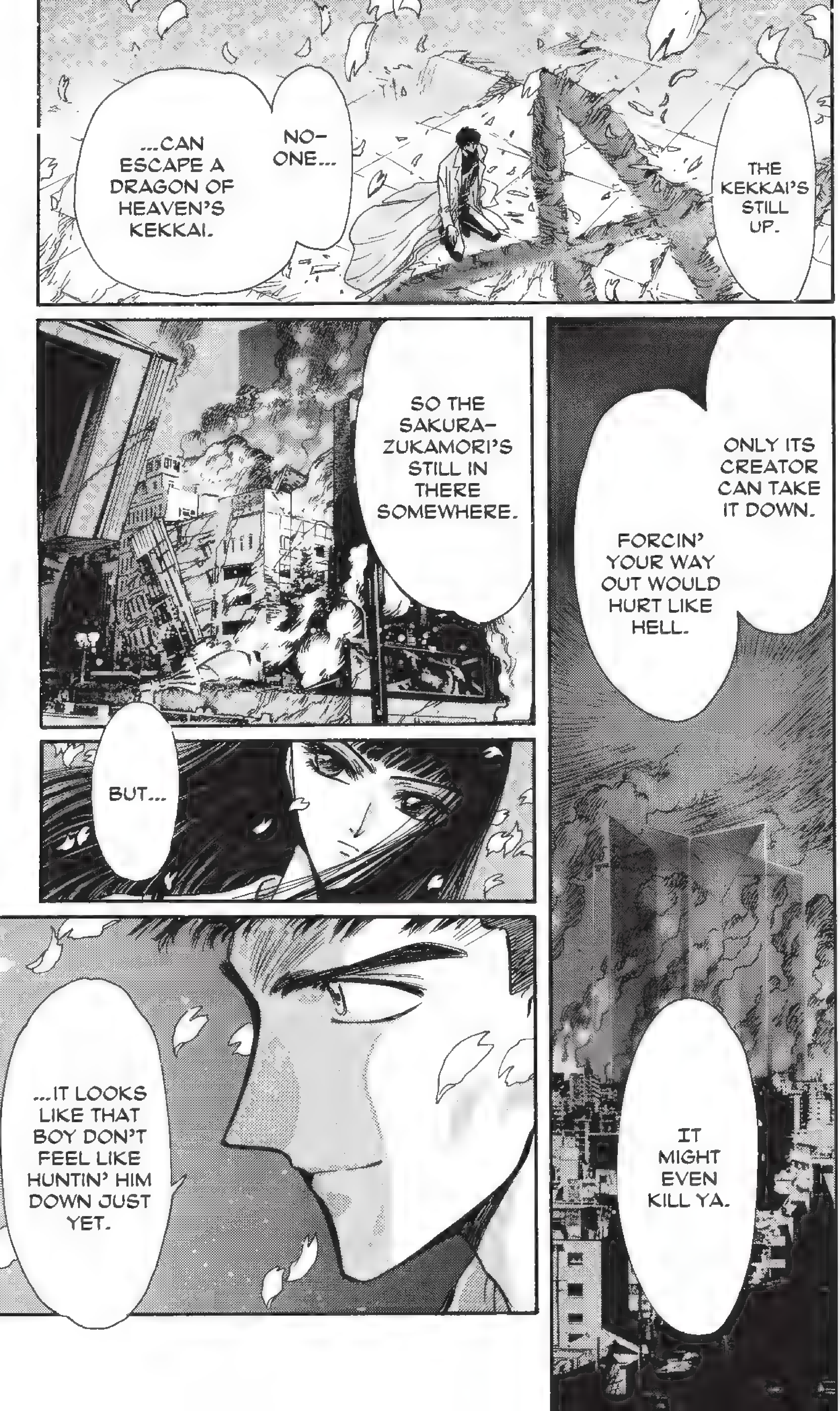

SHUNN
ZANBASH
SWAP
SNIK
SHN
SHT
BOM

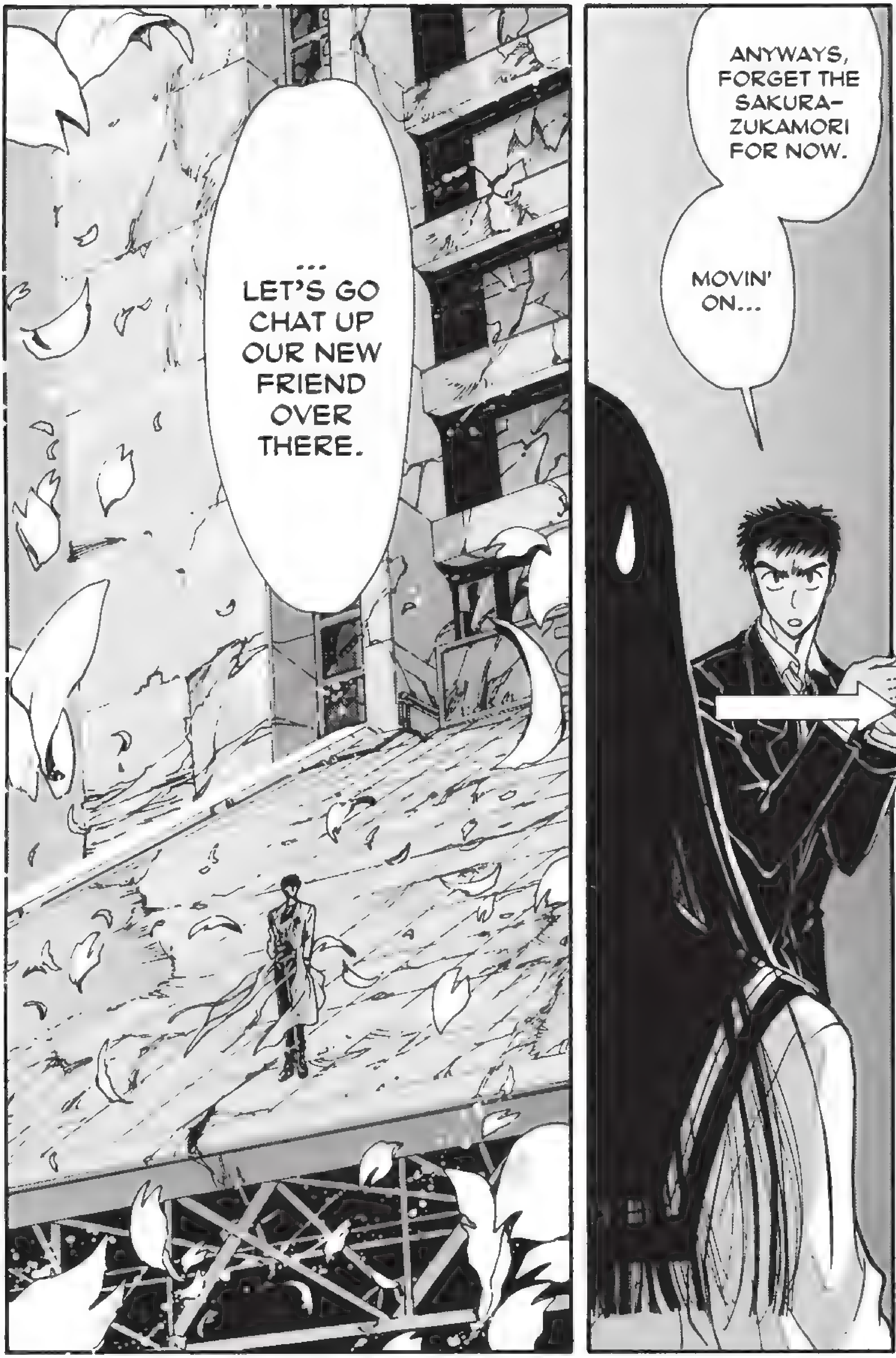

KRAAK
TINKLE
CRUNCH
THUD
SPLAKK

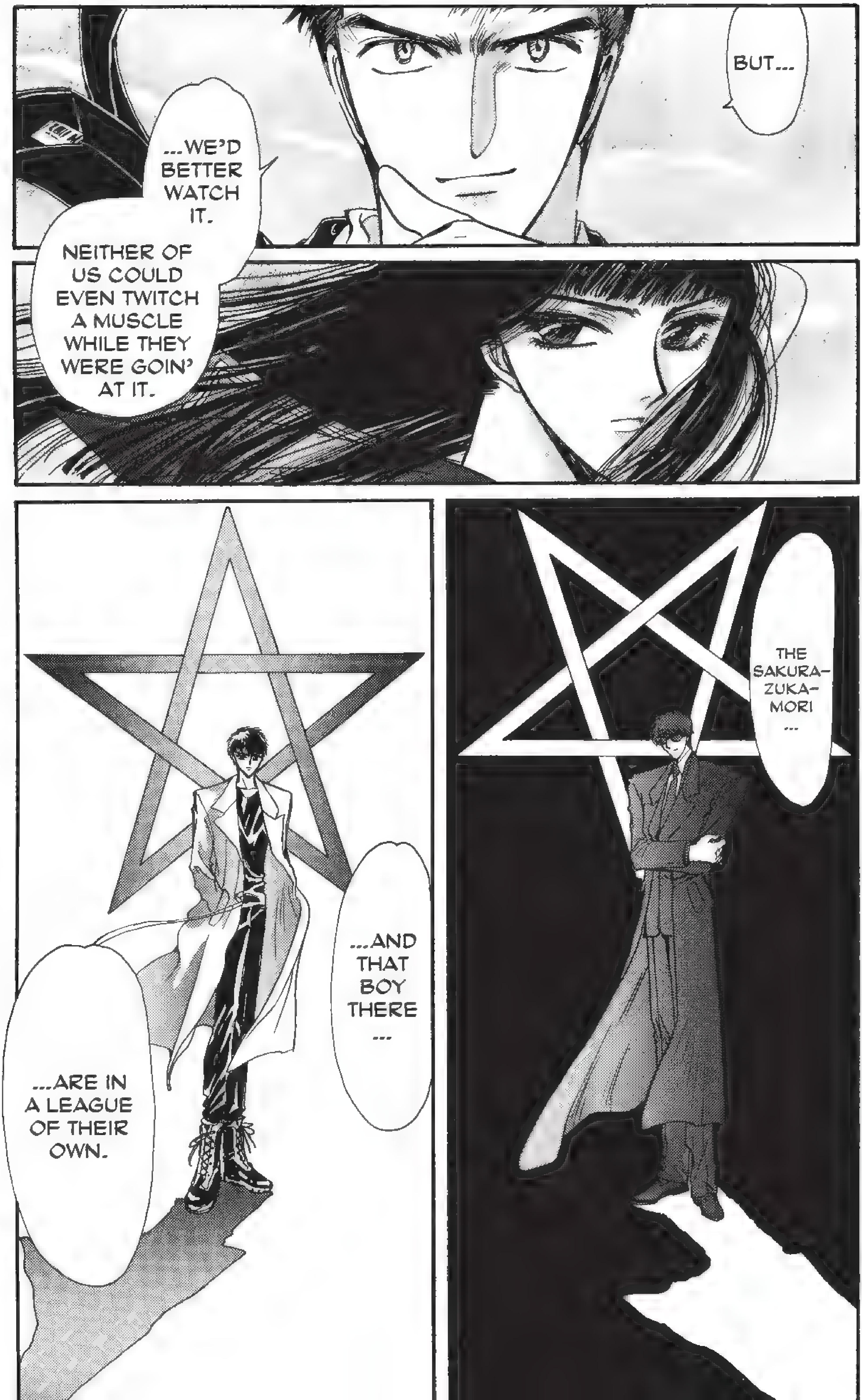

SHAAAAA
HUFF
HUFF
ZINSH
RRRP
FWAP

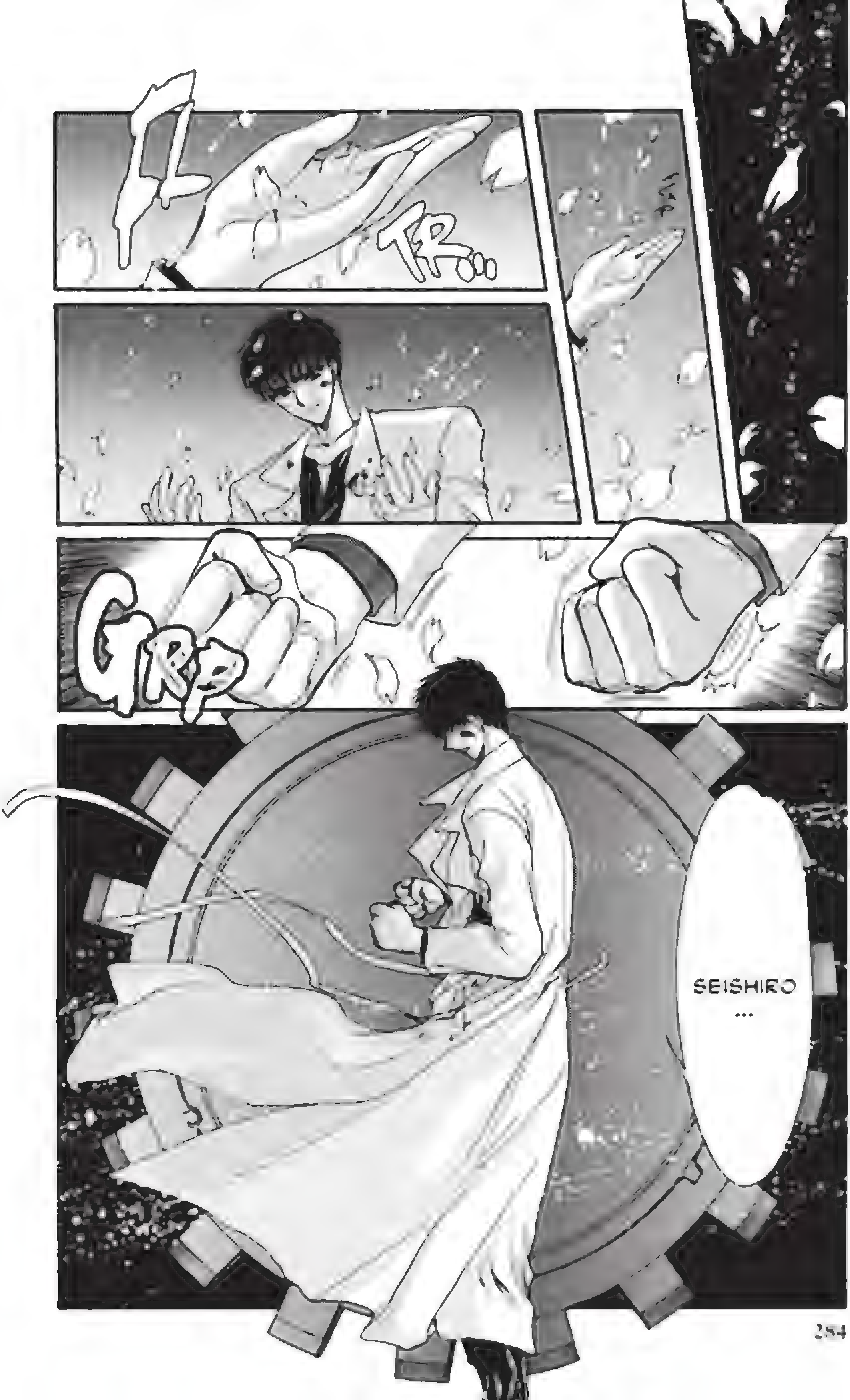

SEE YOU SOON ...
SUBARU.
WHOOO

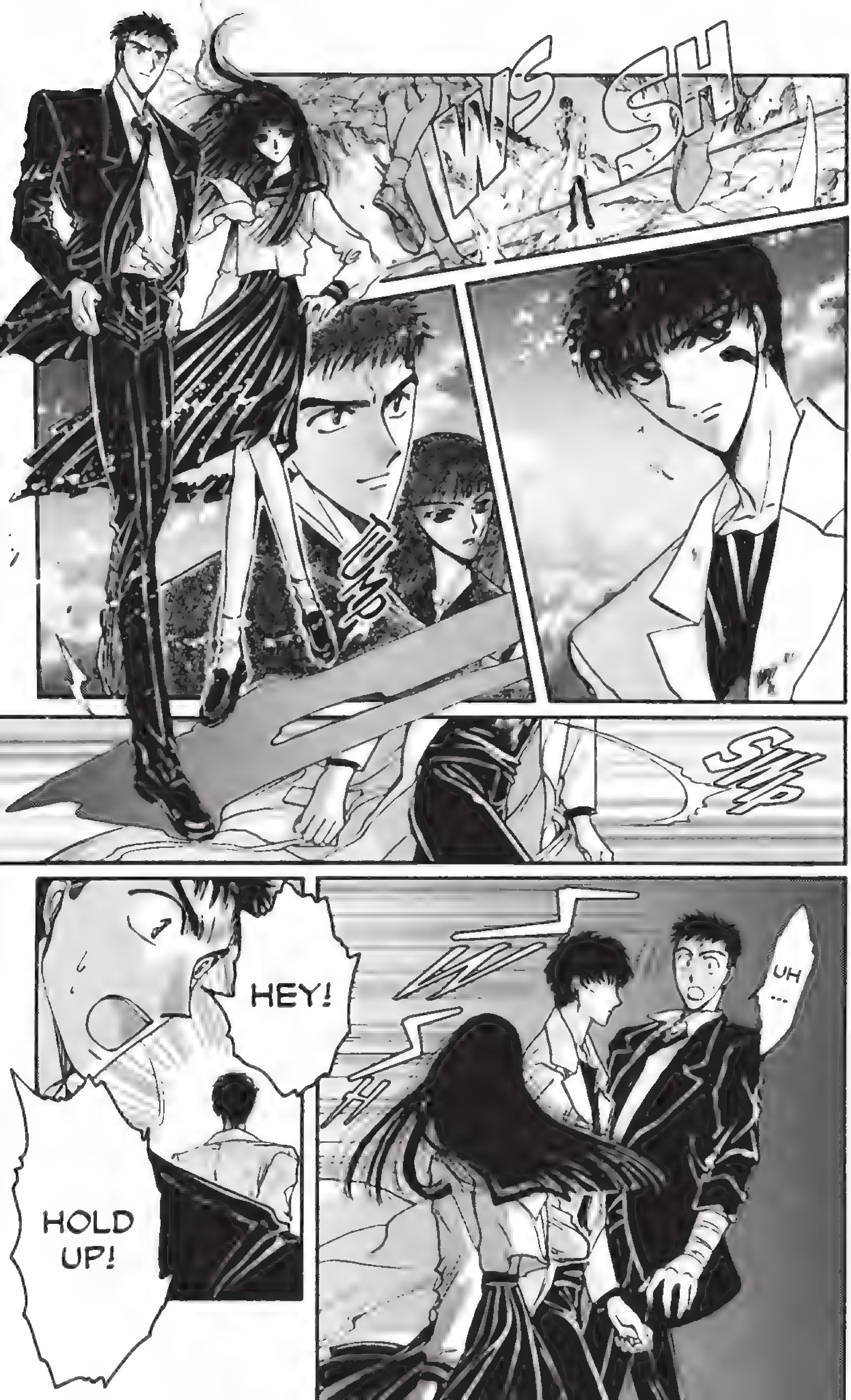

HE'S GONE.
NOPE.
IT'S AN ILLUSION.

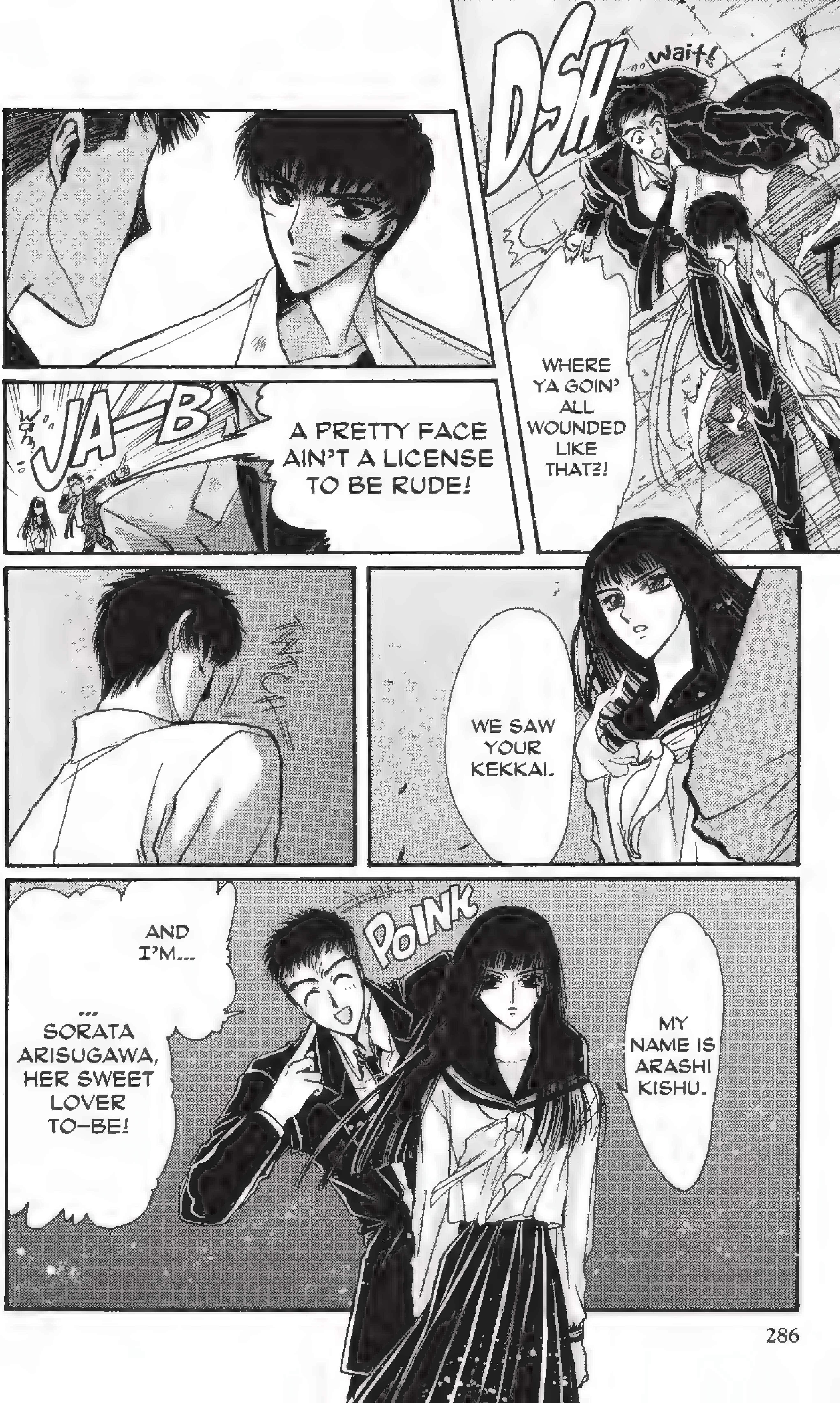

THE KEKKAI'S STILL UP.
NO-ONE...
...CAN ESCAPE A DRAGON OF HEAVEN'S KEKKAI.
ONLY ITS CREATOR CAN TAKE IT DOWN.
FORCIN' YOUR WAY OUT WOULD HURT LIKE HELL.
IT MIGHT EVEN KILL YA.
SO THE SAKURAZUKAMORI'S STILL IN THERE SOMEWHERE.
BUT...
...IT LOOKS LIKE THAT BOY DON'T FEEL LIKE HUNTIN' HIM DOWN JUST YET.

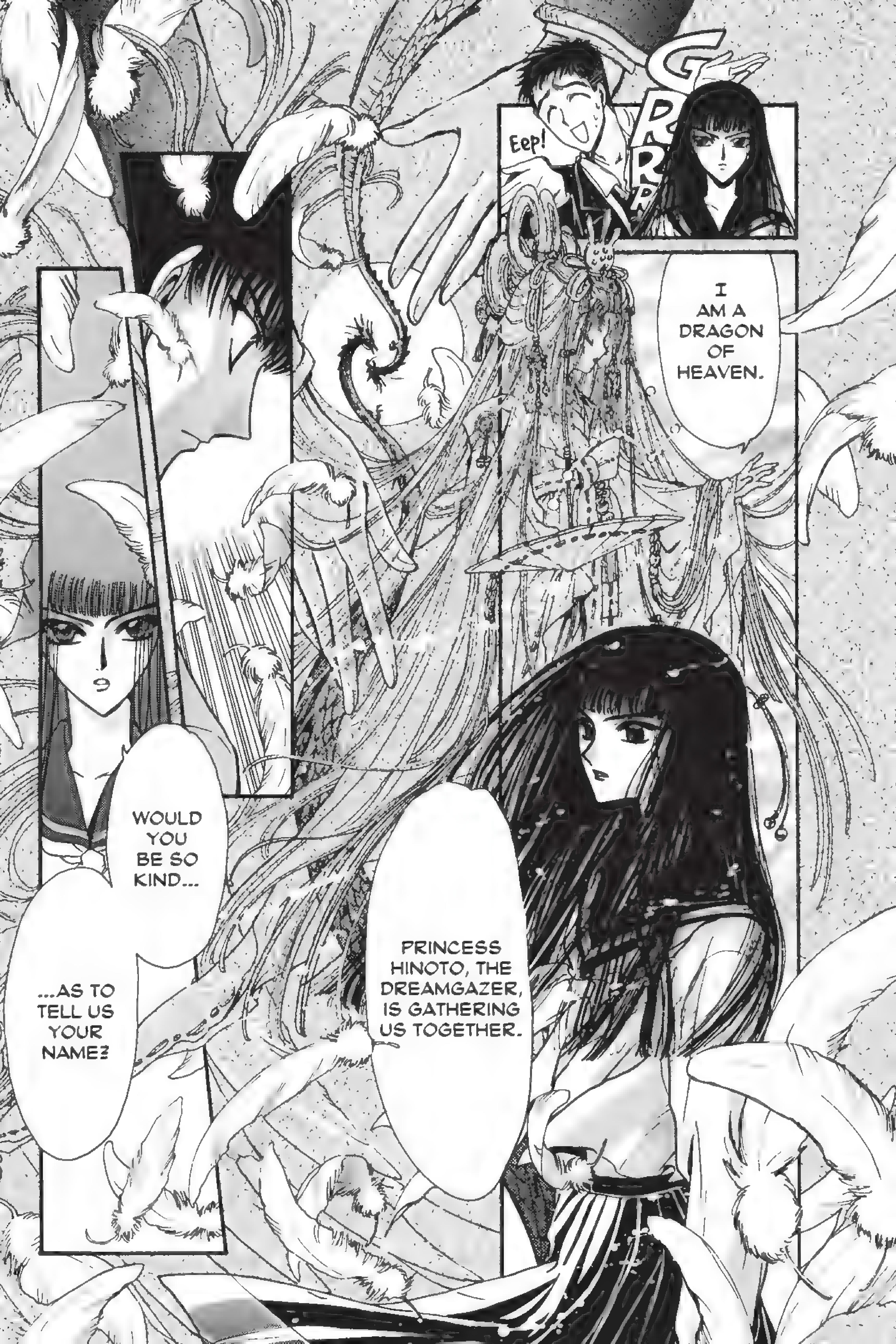

ANYWAYS, FORGET THE SAKURAZUKAMORI FOR NOW.
MOVIN' ON...
... LET'S GO CHAT UP OUR NEW FRIEND OVER THERE.

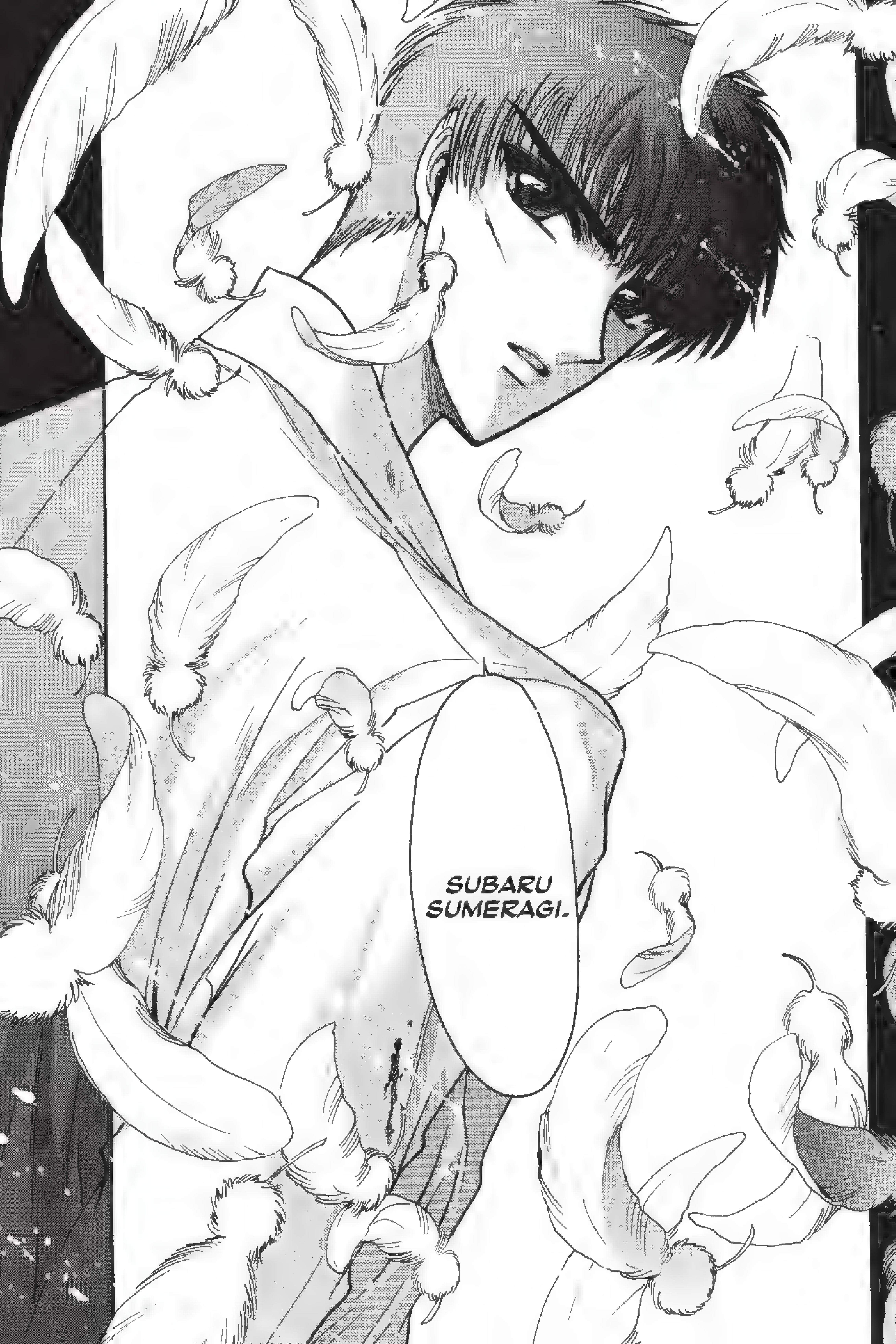

BUT...
...WE'D BETTER WATCH IT.
NEITHER OF US COULD EVEN TWITCH A MUSCLE WHILE THEY WERE GOIN' AT IT.
THE SAKURAZUKAMORI...
...AND THAT BOY THERE...
...ARE IN A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN.

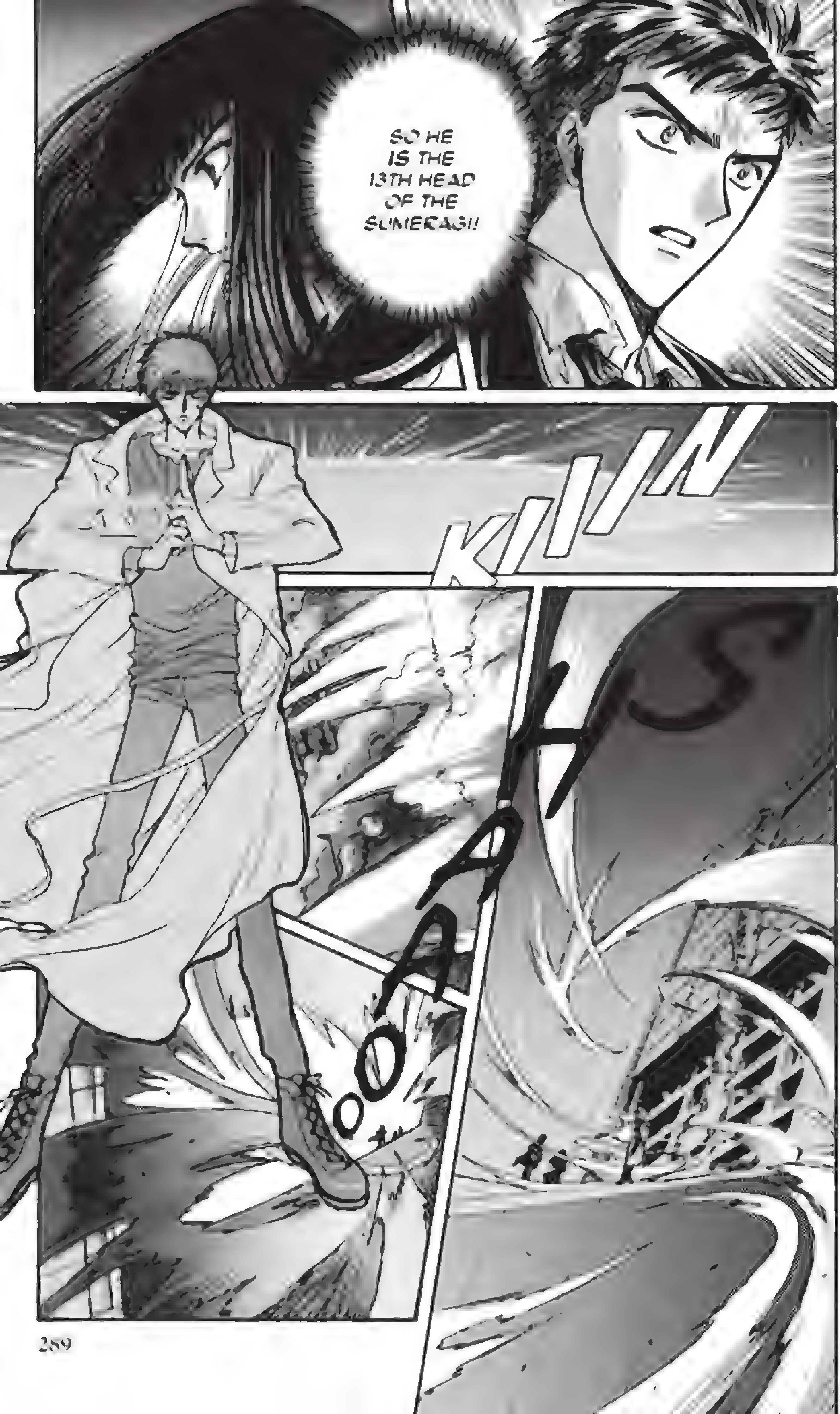

FL
TR...
GRP
SEISHIRO ...


WHSSH
THUMP
SHIP
UH...
HEY!
HOLD UP!

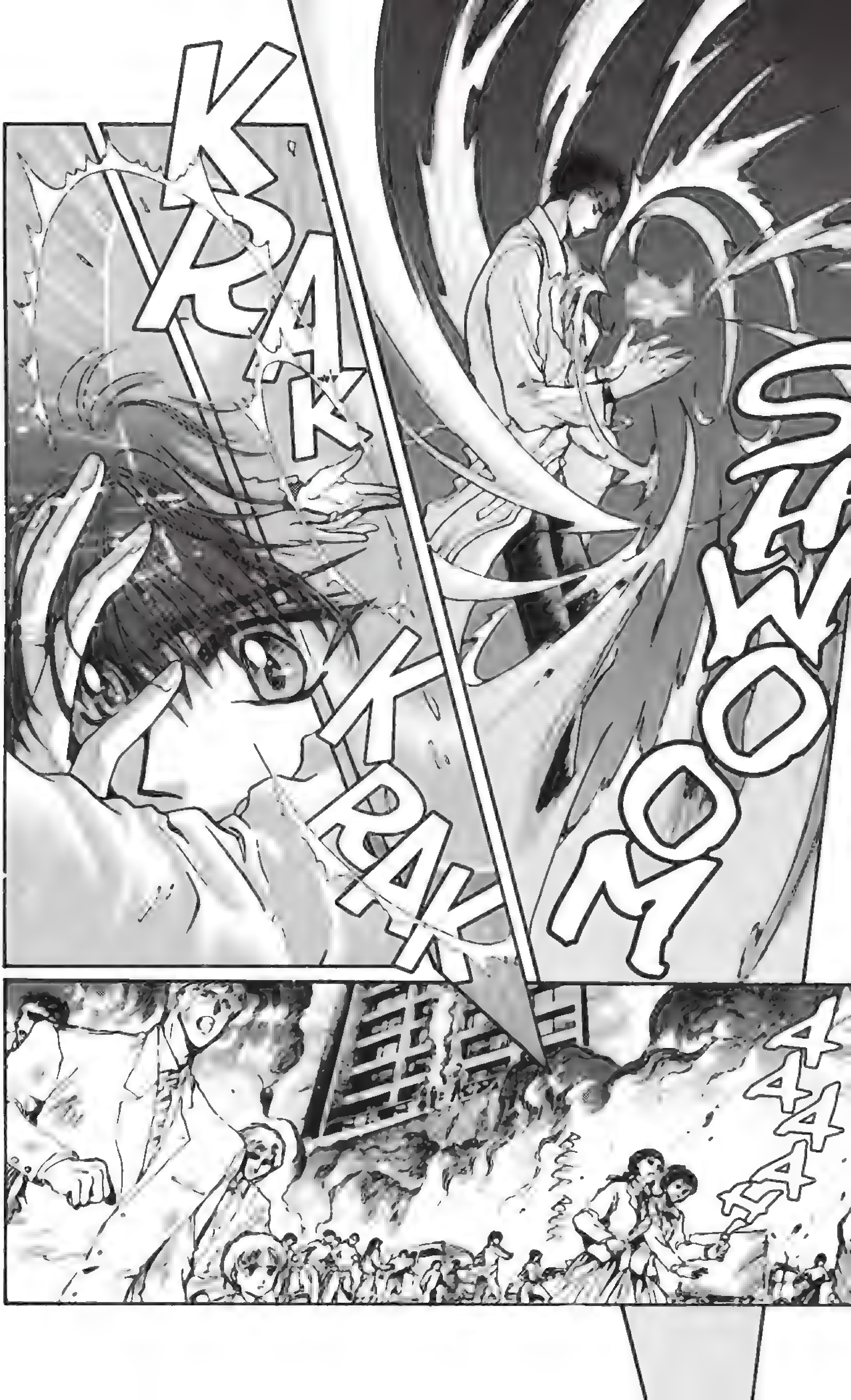

DSH
wait!
WHERE YA GOIN' ALL WOUNDED LIKE THAT?!
JA-B
Wah!
A PRETTY FACE AIN'T A LICENSE TO BE RUDE!
WE SAW YOUR KEKKAI.
TWITCH
MY NAME IS ARASHI KISHU.
POINK
AND I'M...
... SORATA ARISUGAWA, HER SWEET LOVER TO-BE!

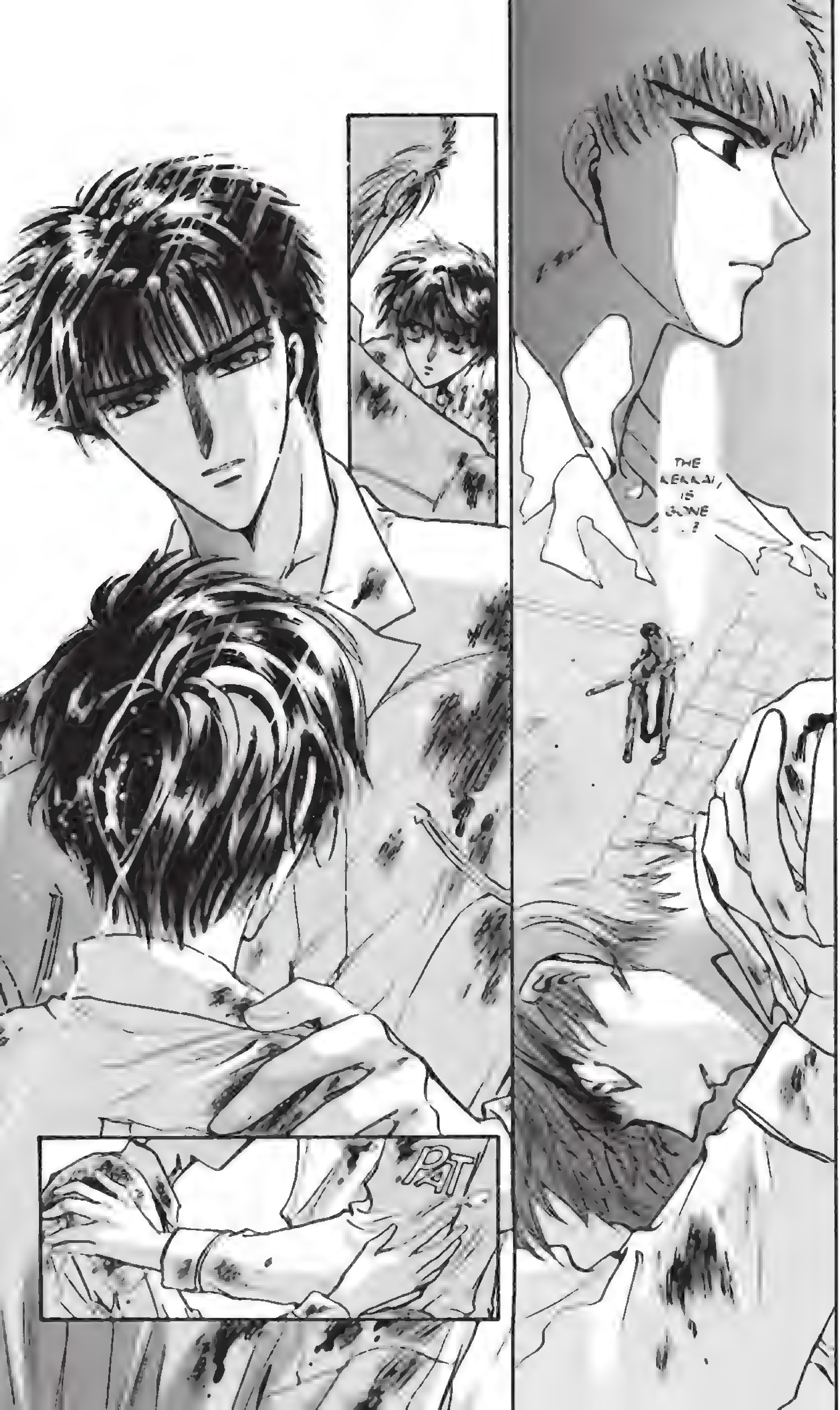

GRRR
Eep!
I AM A DRAGON OF HEAVEN.
PRINCESS HINOTO, THE DREAMGAZER, IS GATHERING US TOGETHER.
WOULD YOU BE SO KIND...
...AS TO TELL US YOUR NAME?

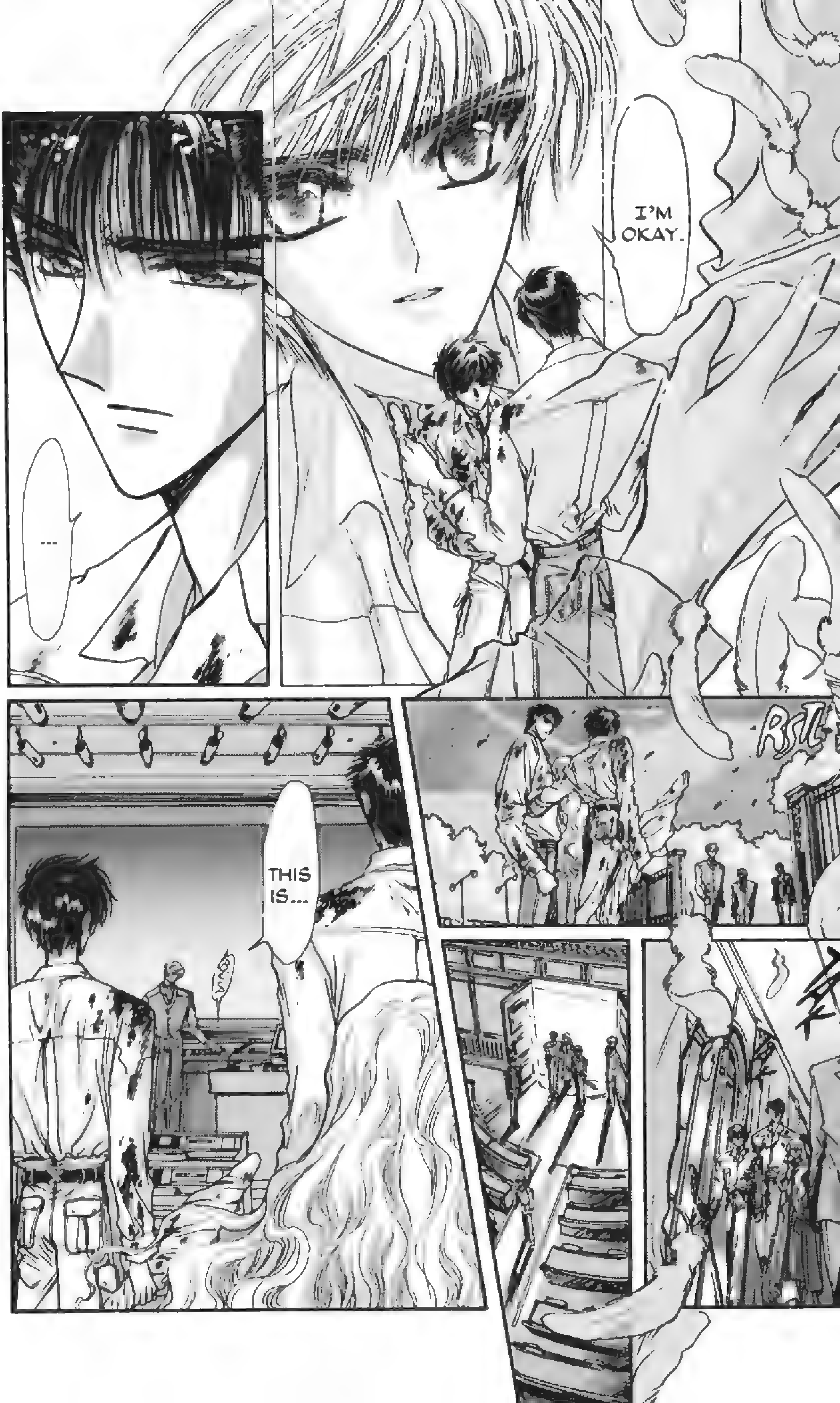

SUBARU SUMERAGI.

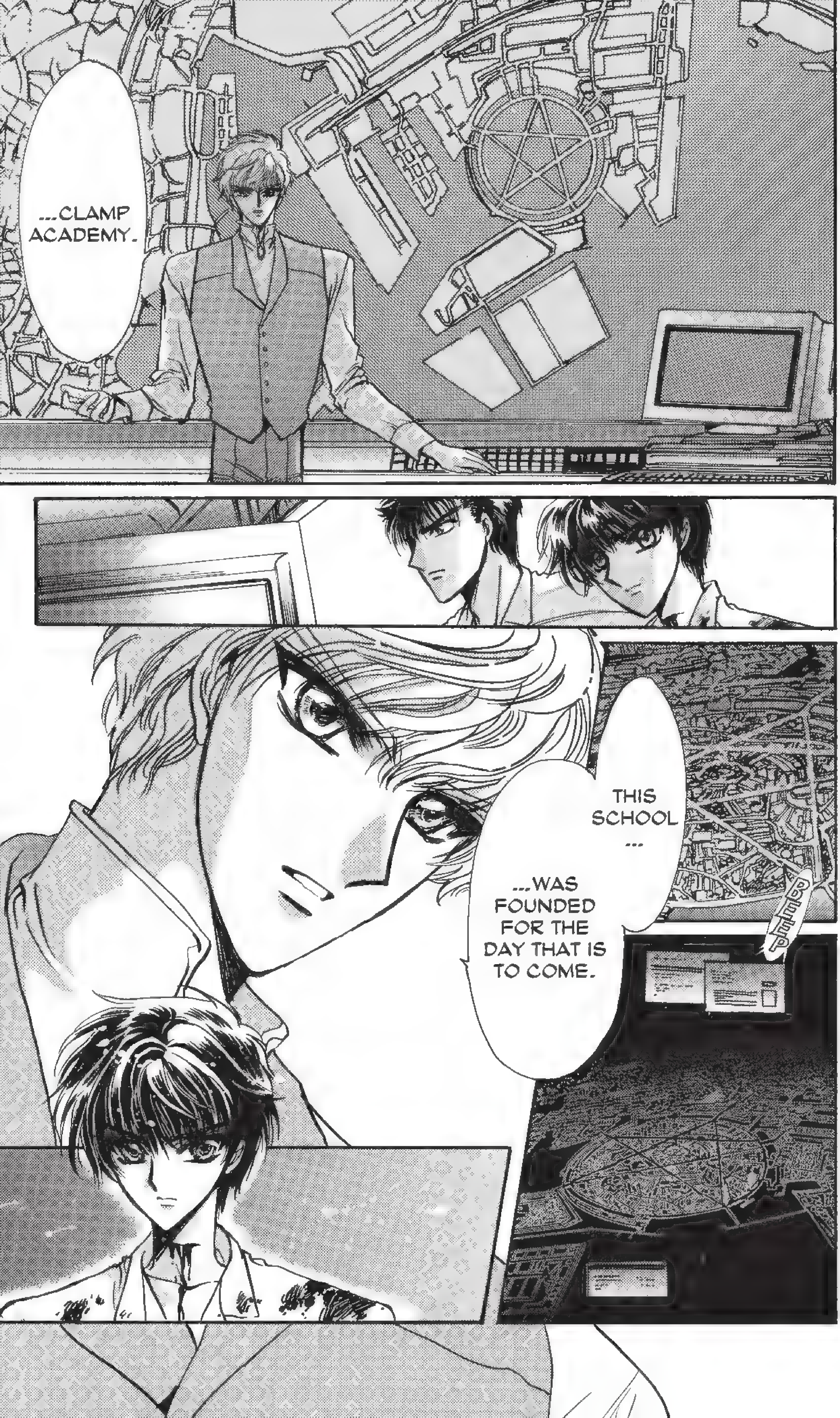

SO HE IS THE 13TH HEAD OF THE SUMERAGI!!
KIIIN
SHAAAOO

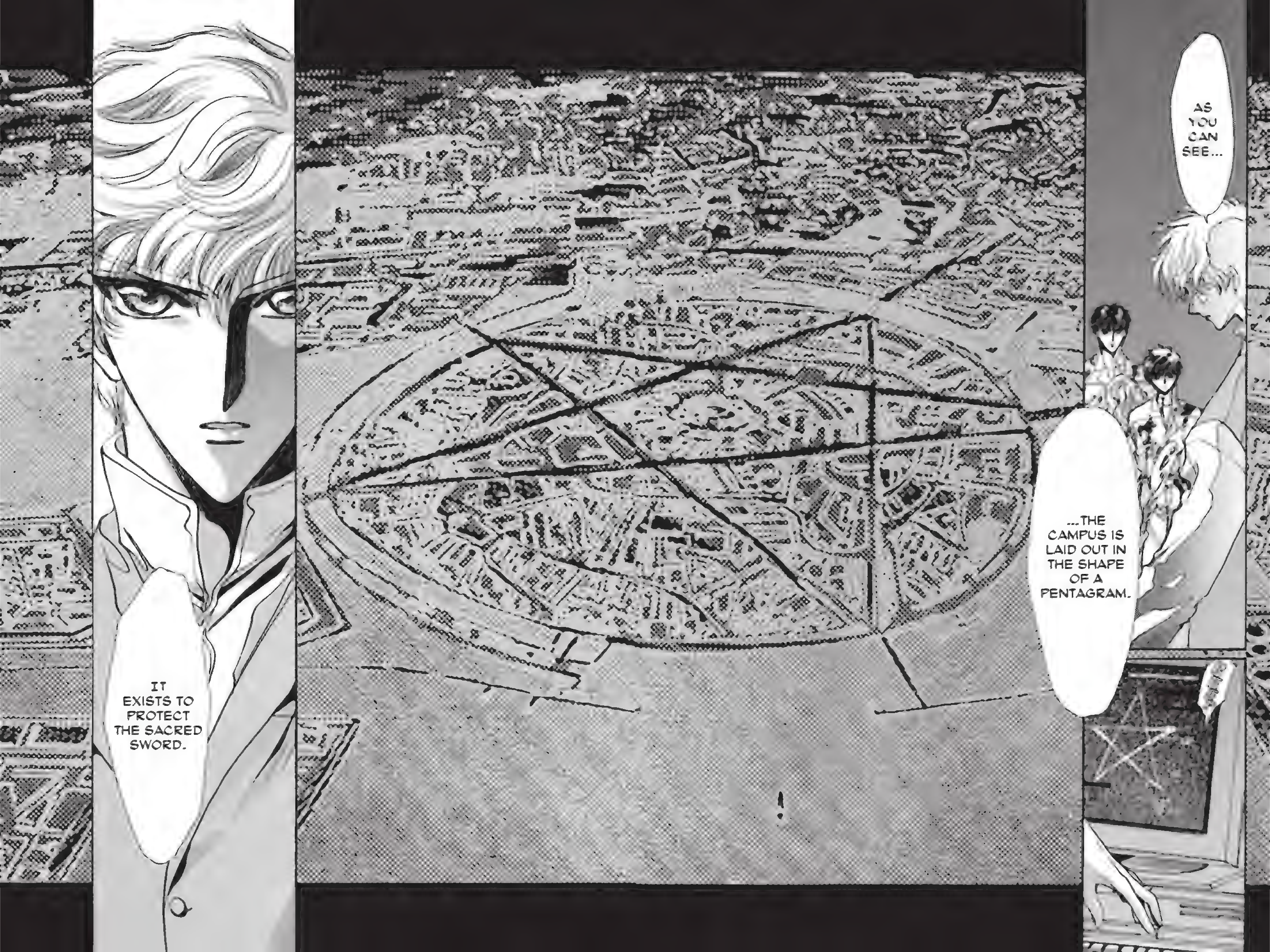
SHAOO

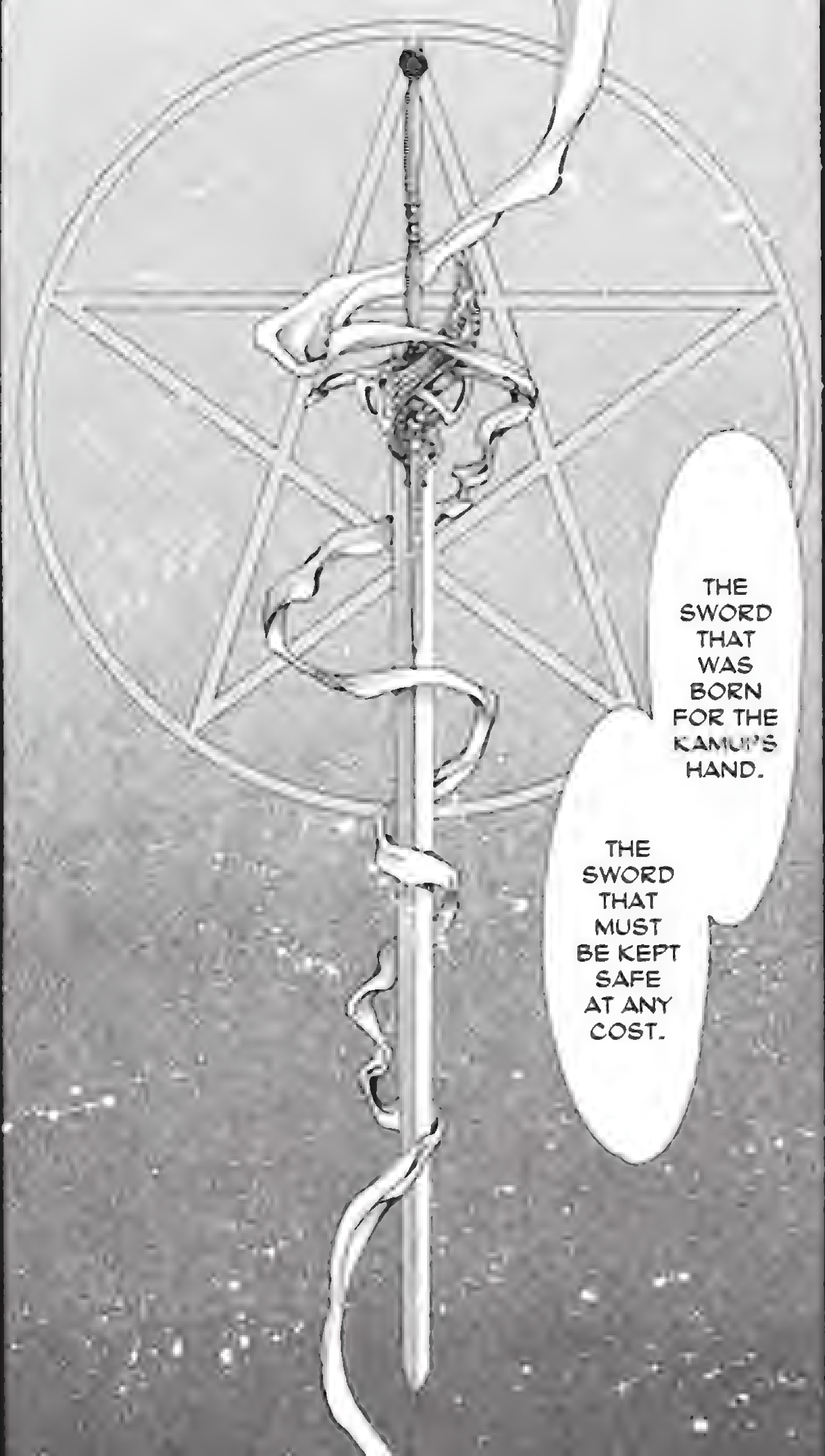

SHWOOM
KRAK
KRAK
AAAAA

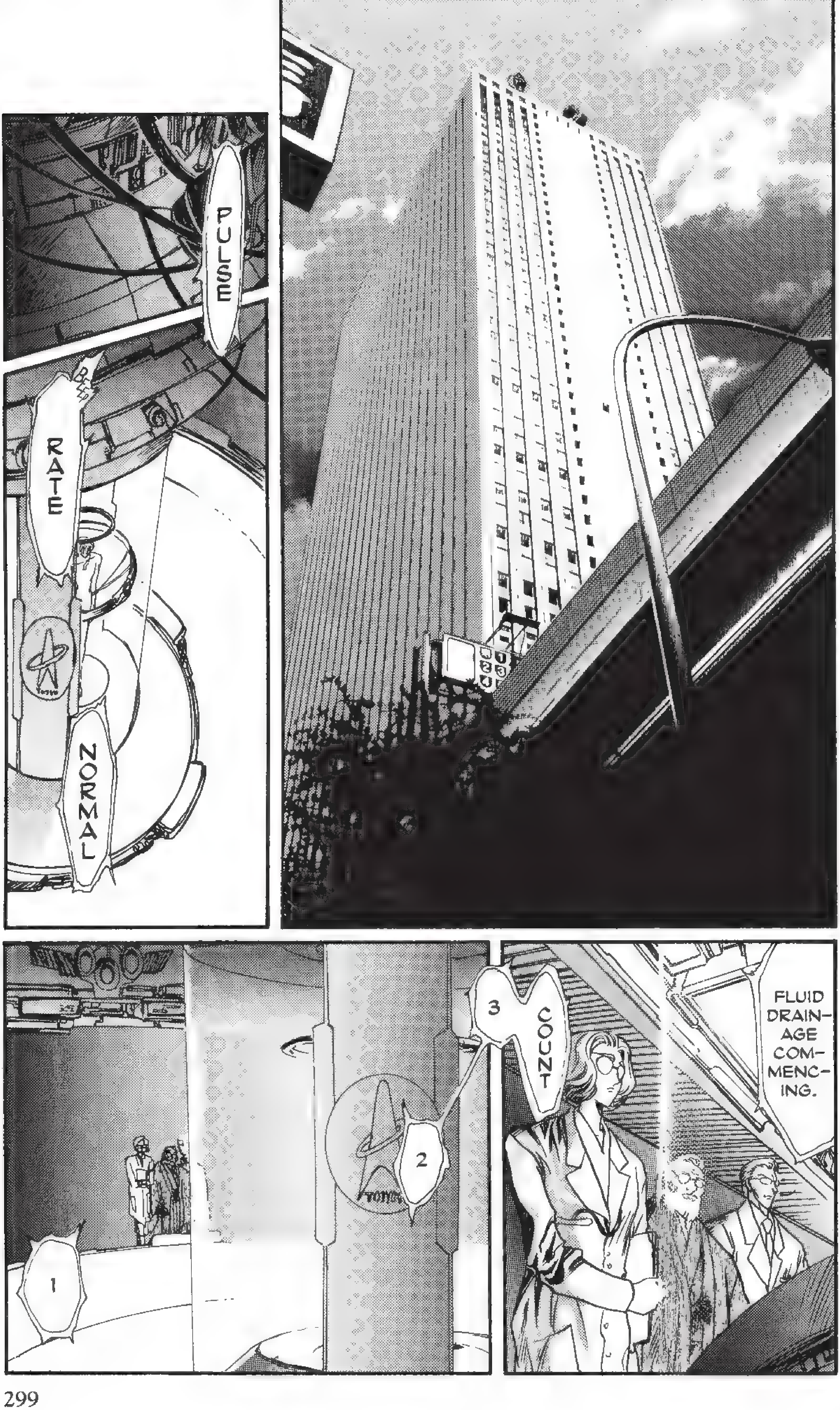

THE KEKKAI IS GONE ...?
PAT

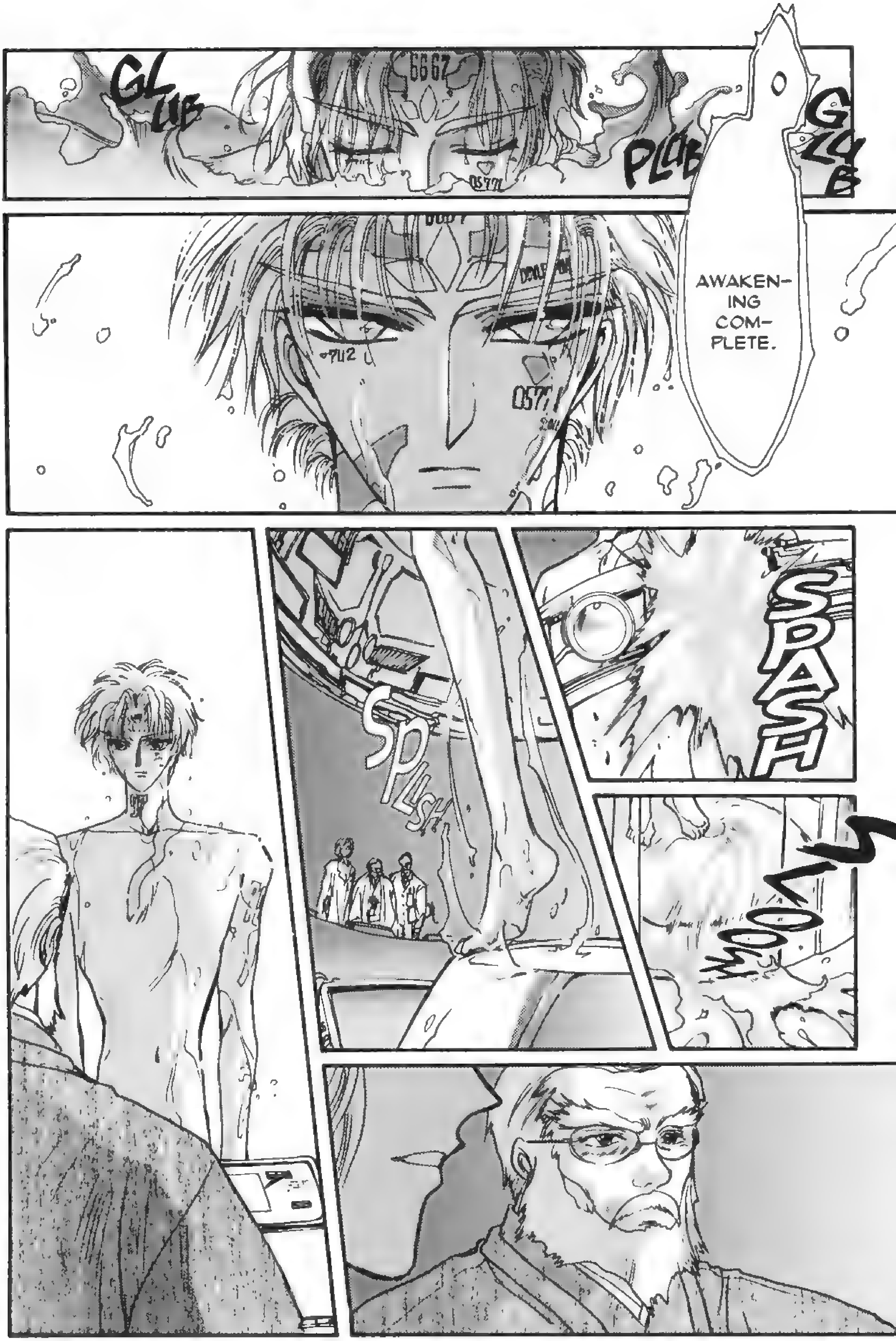

I'M OKAY.
...
RSTL
THIS IS...

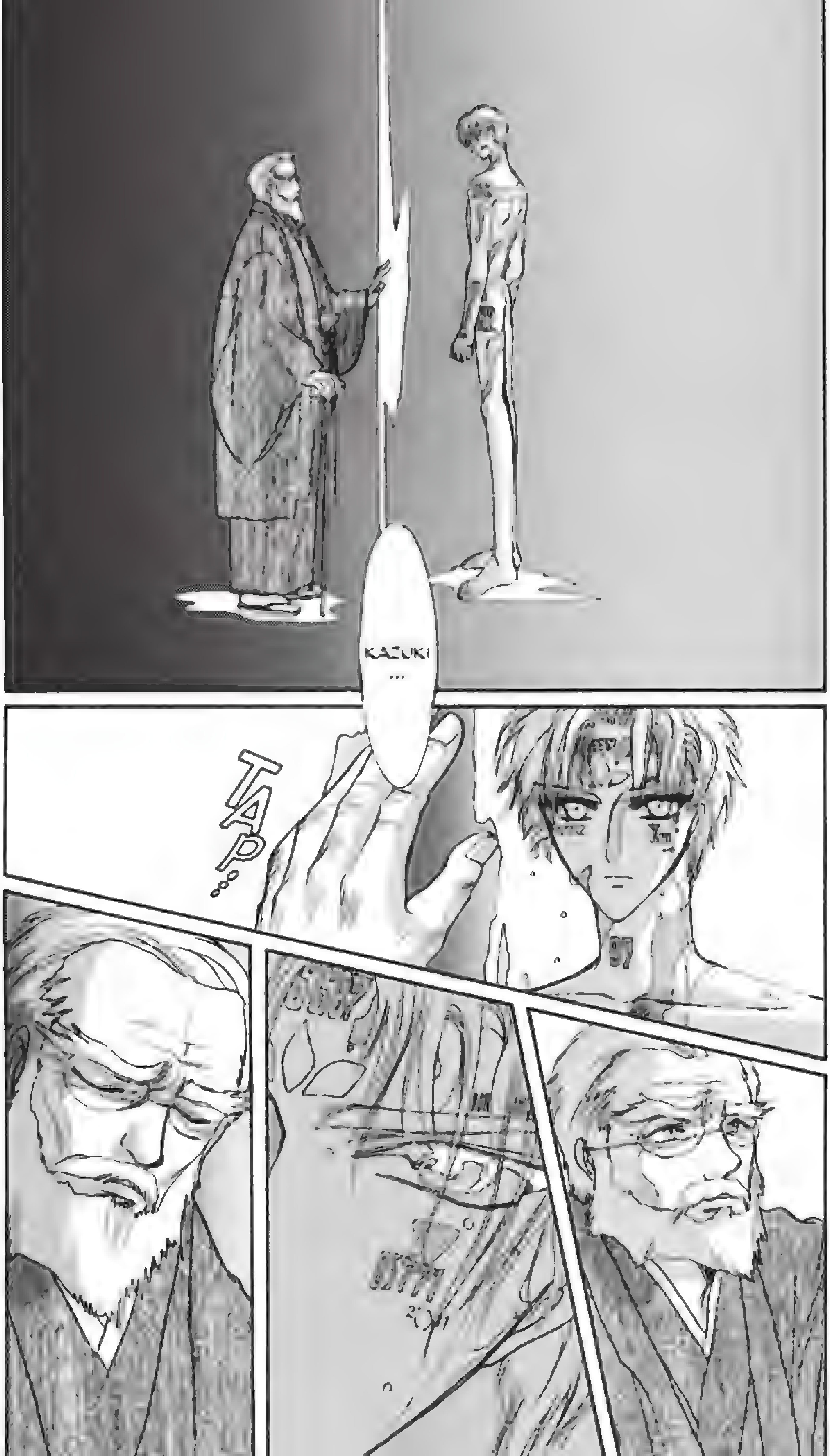

...CLAMP ACADEMY...
THIS SCHOOL ...
...WAS FOUNDED FOR THE DAY THAT IS TO COME.
BEEEP

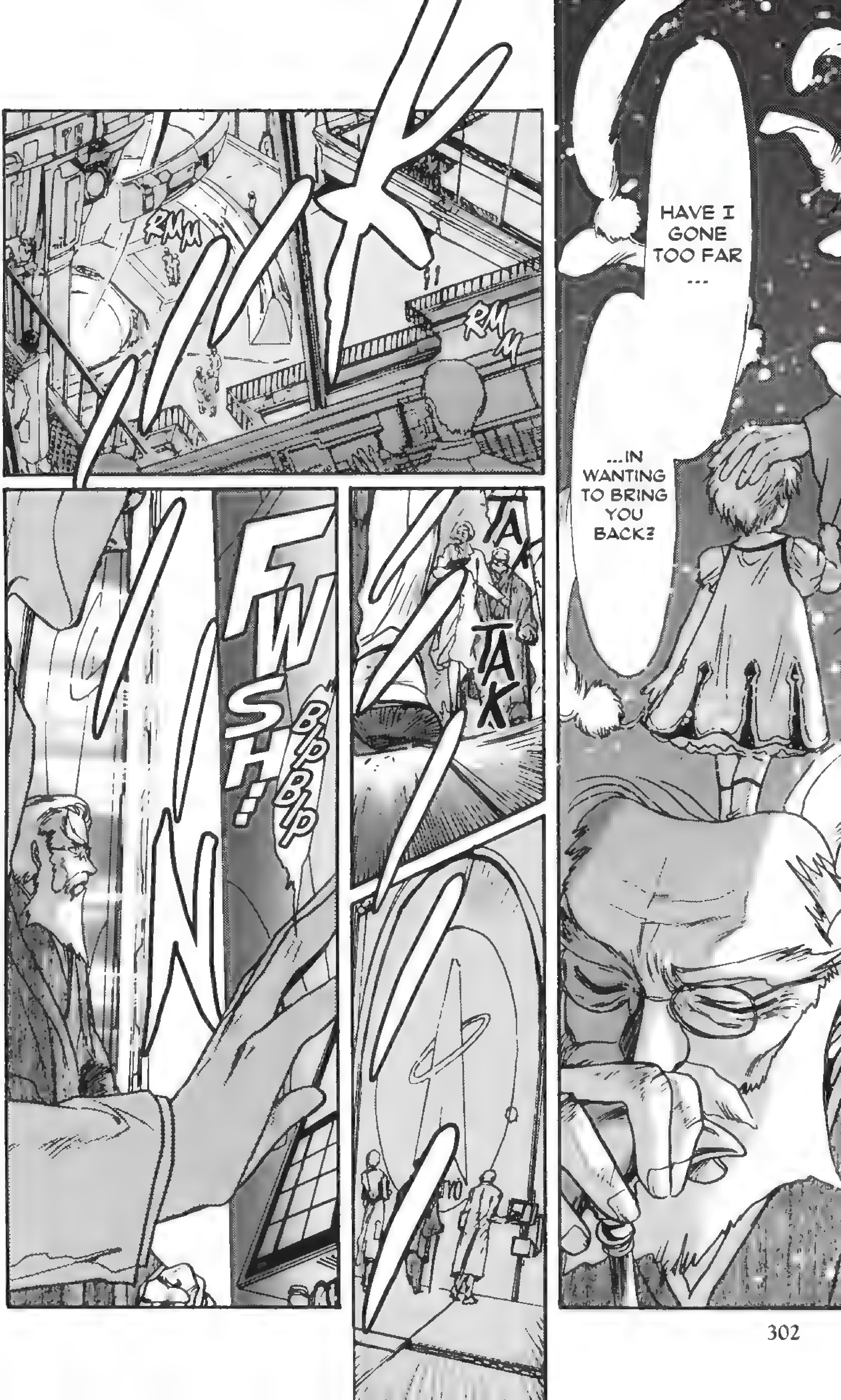

AS YOU CAN SEE...
...THE CAMPUS IS LAID OUT IN THE SHAPE OF A PENTAGRAM.
!
IT EXISTS TO PROTECT THE SACRED SWORD.

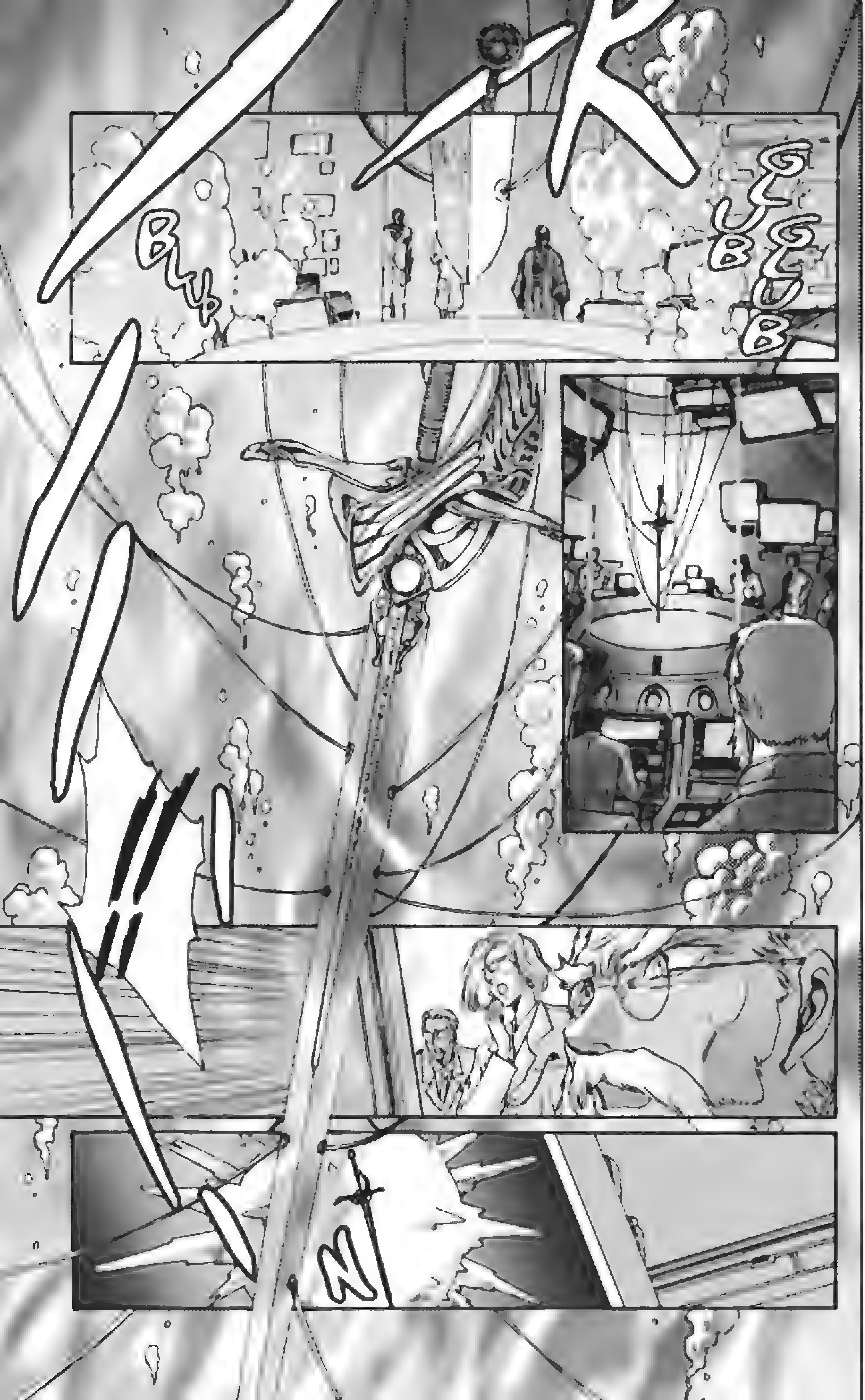

THE SWORD THAT WAS BORN FOR THE KAMUI'S HAND.
THE SWORD THAT MUST BE KEPT SAFE AT ANY COST.

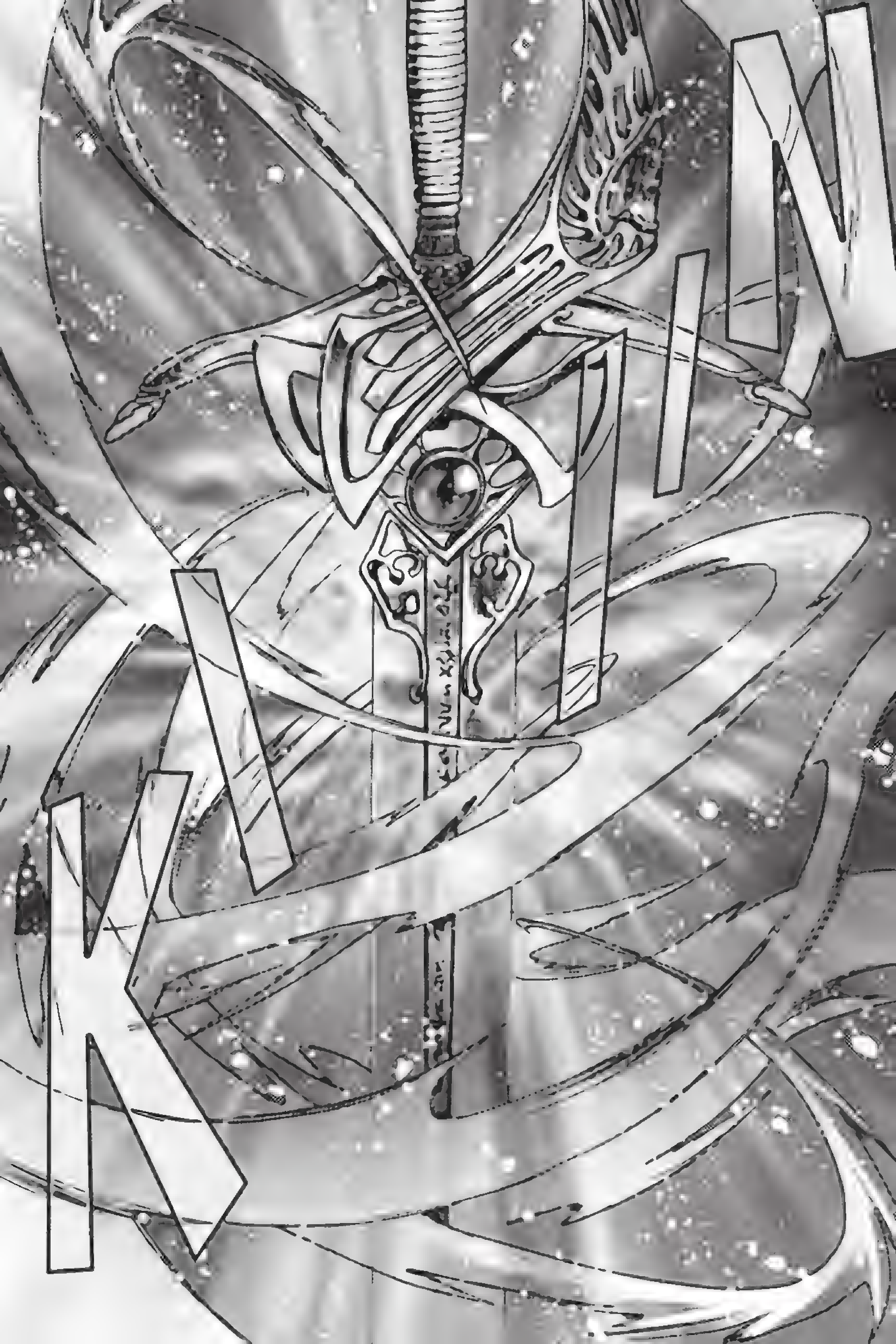

PULSE
RATE
NORMAL
FLUID DRAINAGE COMMENCING.
COUNT 3
2
1

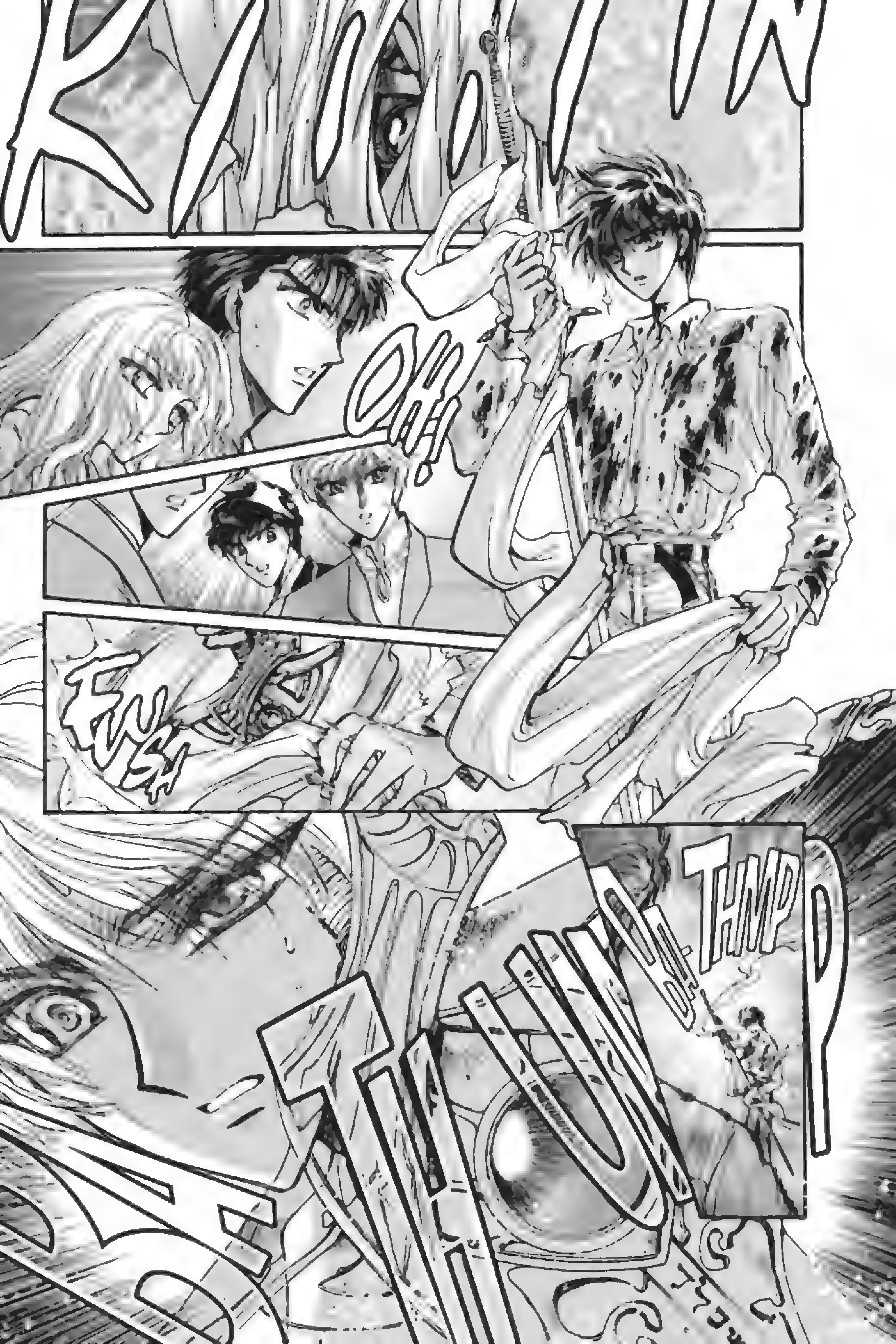

GLUB
PLUB
GLUB
AWAKENING COMPLETE.
SPASH
SPLISH
WOOSH


KAZUKI ...
TAP...

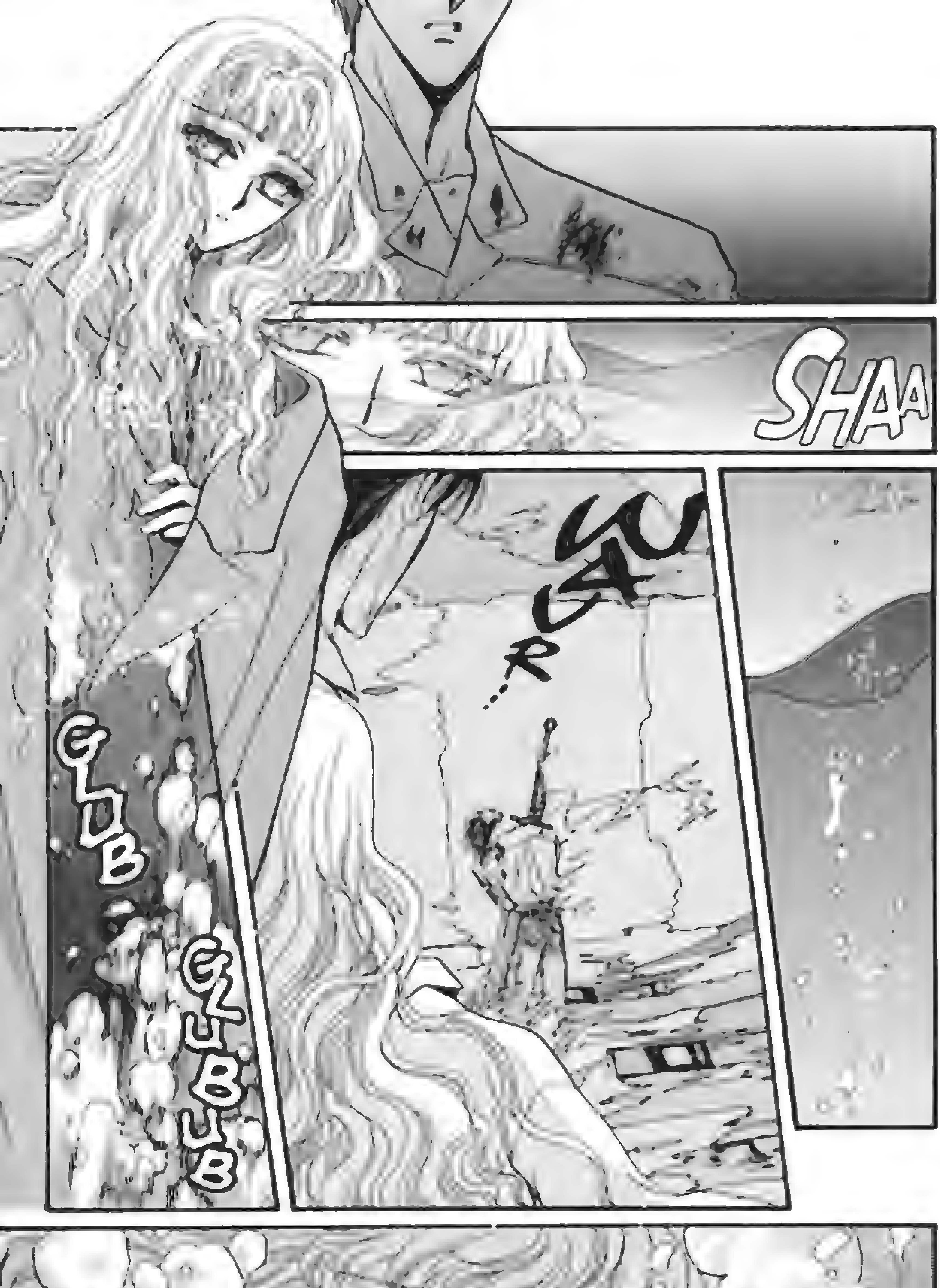

HAVE I GONE TOO FAR ...
...IN WANTING TO BRING YOU BACK?
RMM
RMM
TAK
TAK
FWISH!!
Bipbip


GLUB
GLUB
BLUP
N

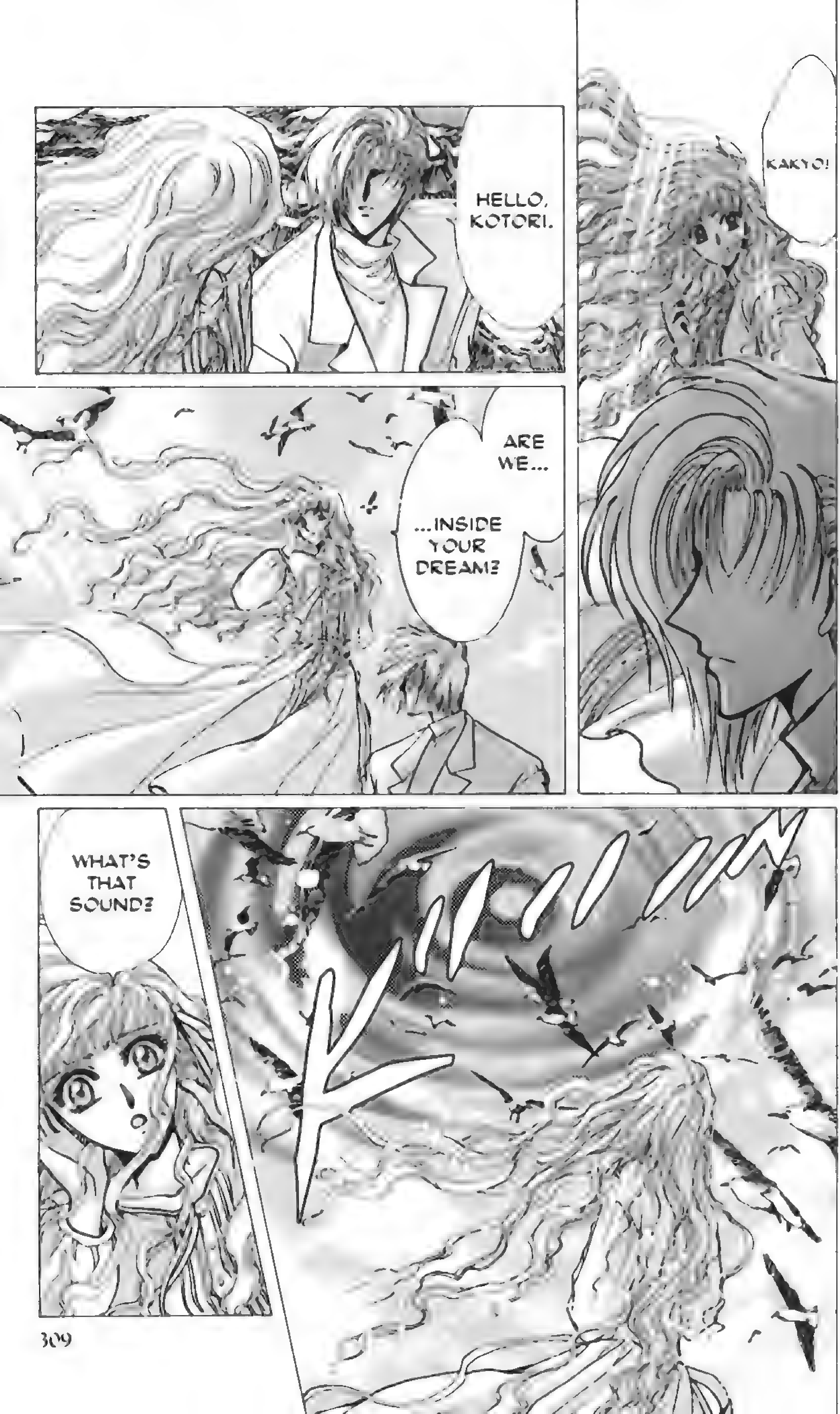

KIIN

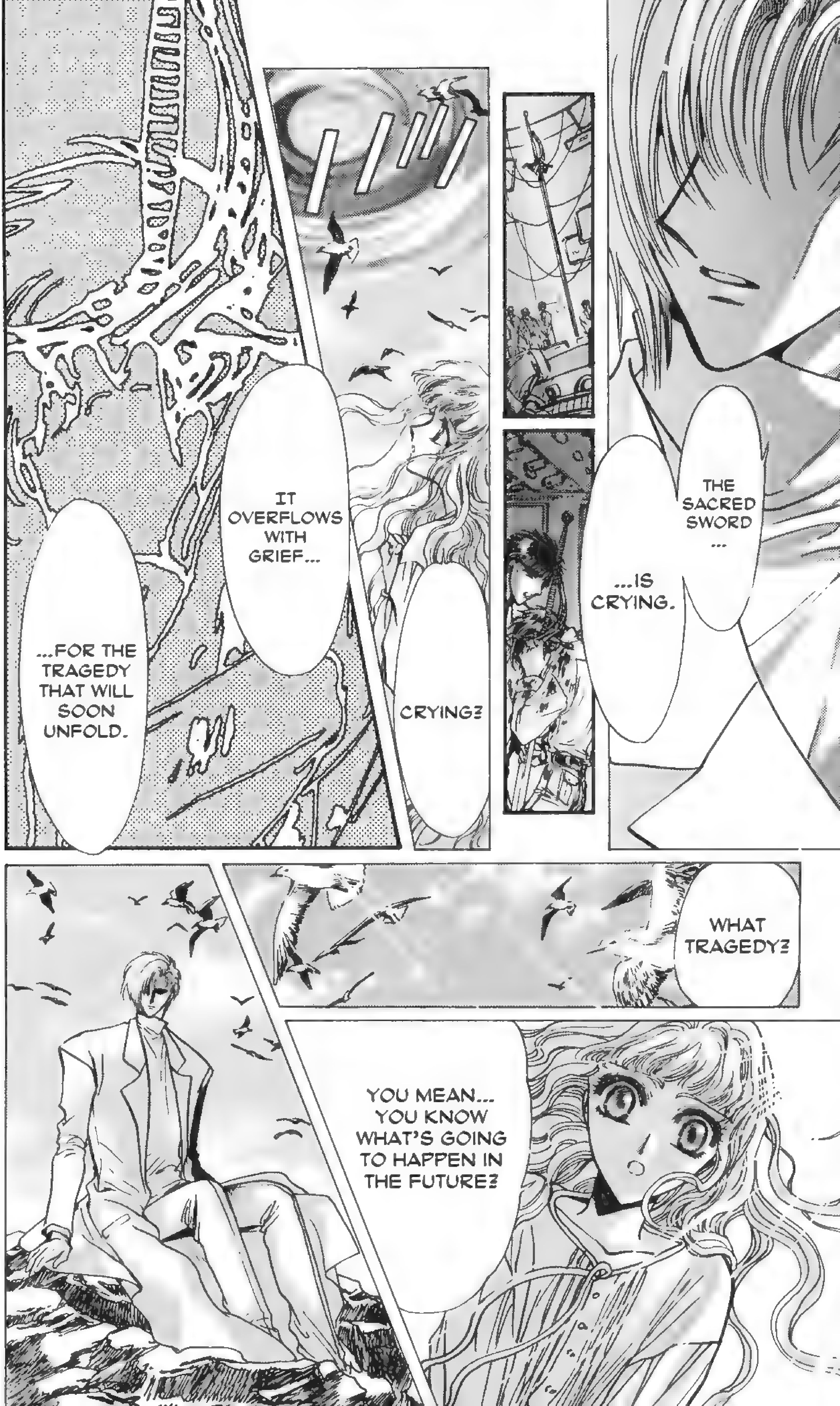

KIIIIN
OH!!
FWUSH
THMP
THUD

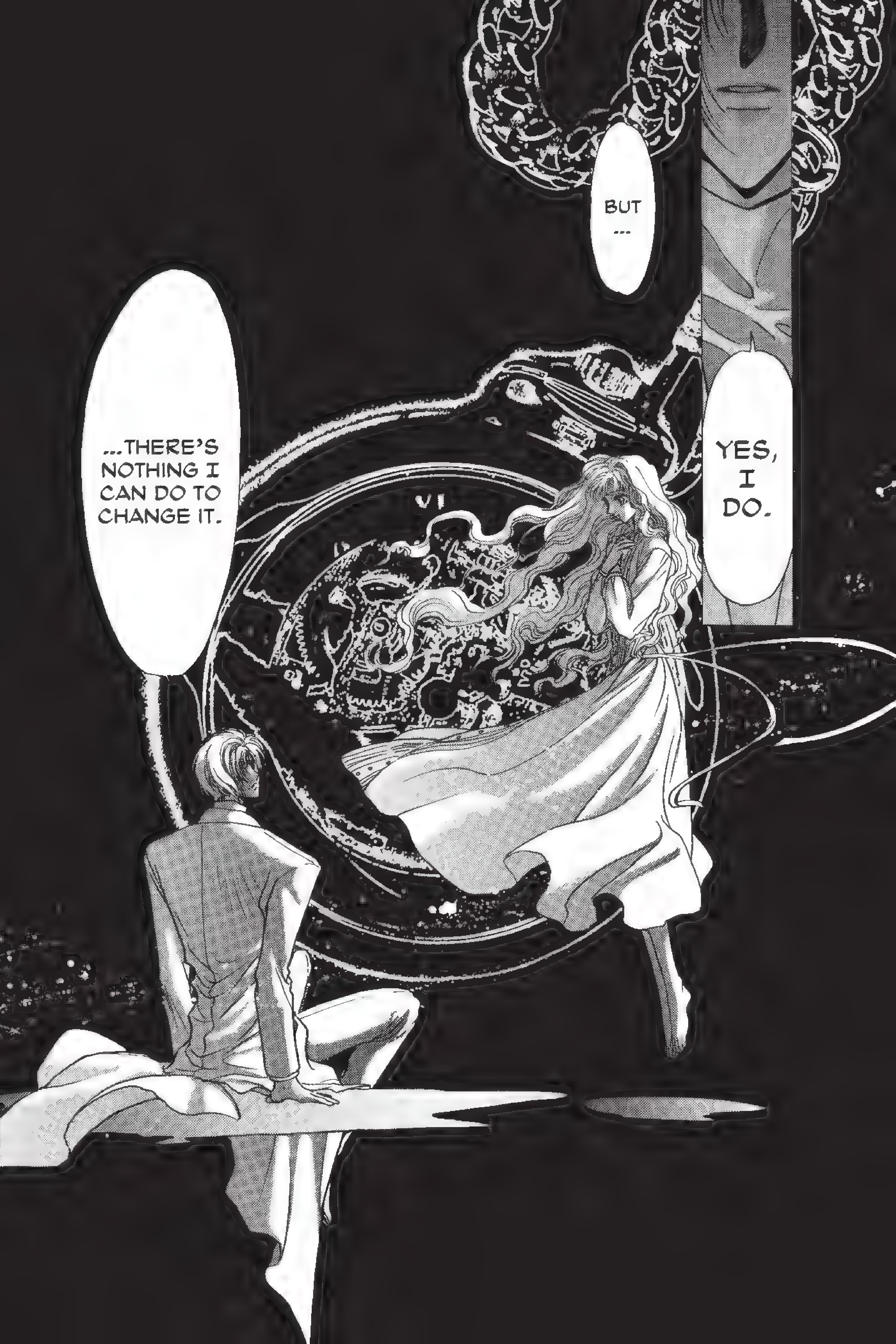
BA-THUMP

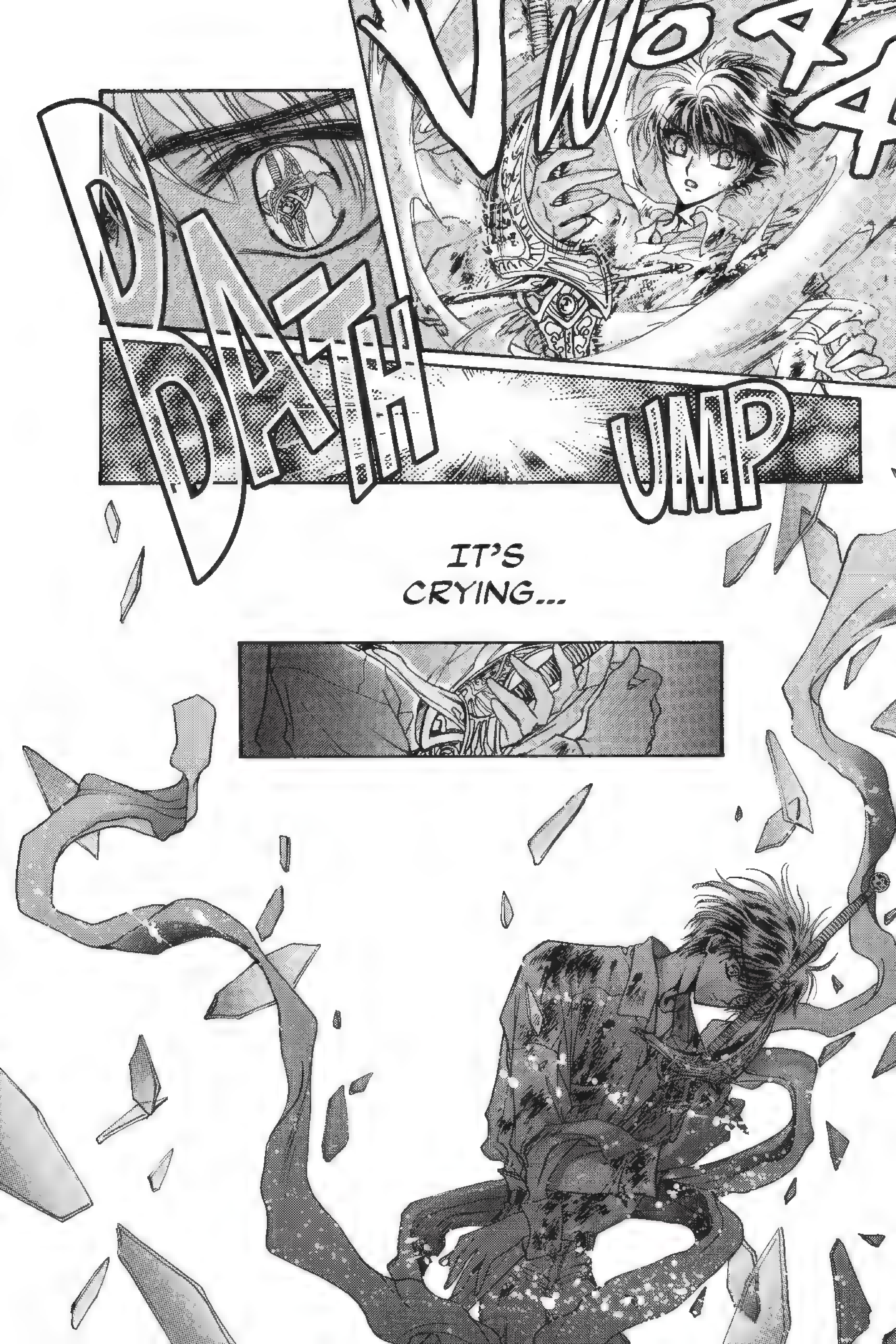

SHAA
UUAUR...
GLUB GLUB GLUBUB

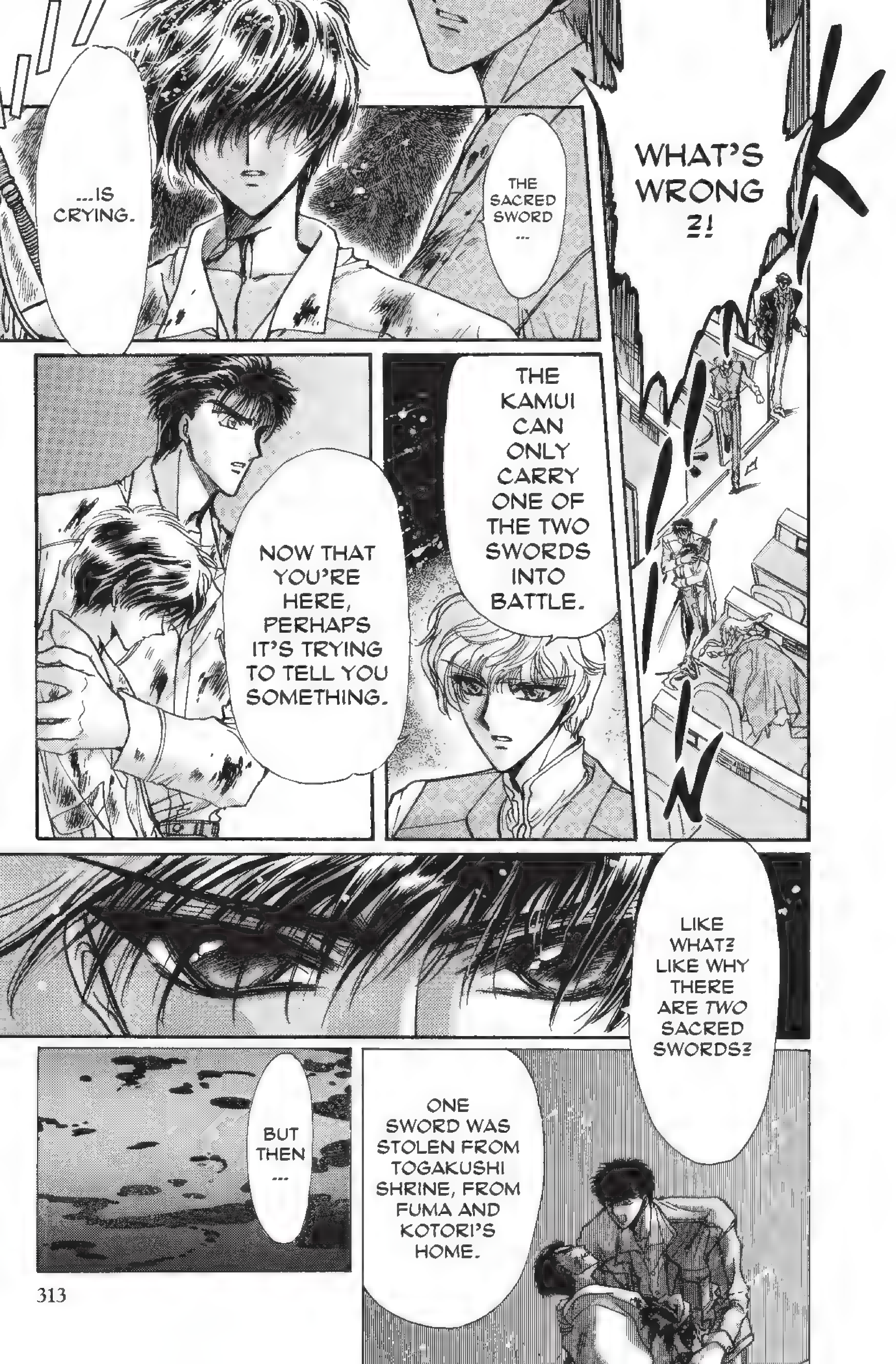
SHAAAA
SHA...
SHHAA—
AA

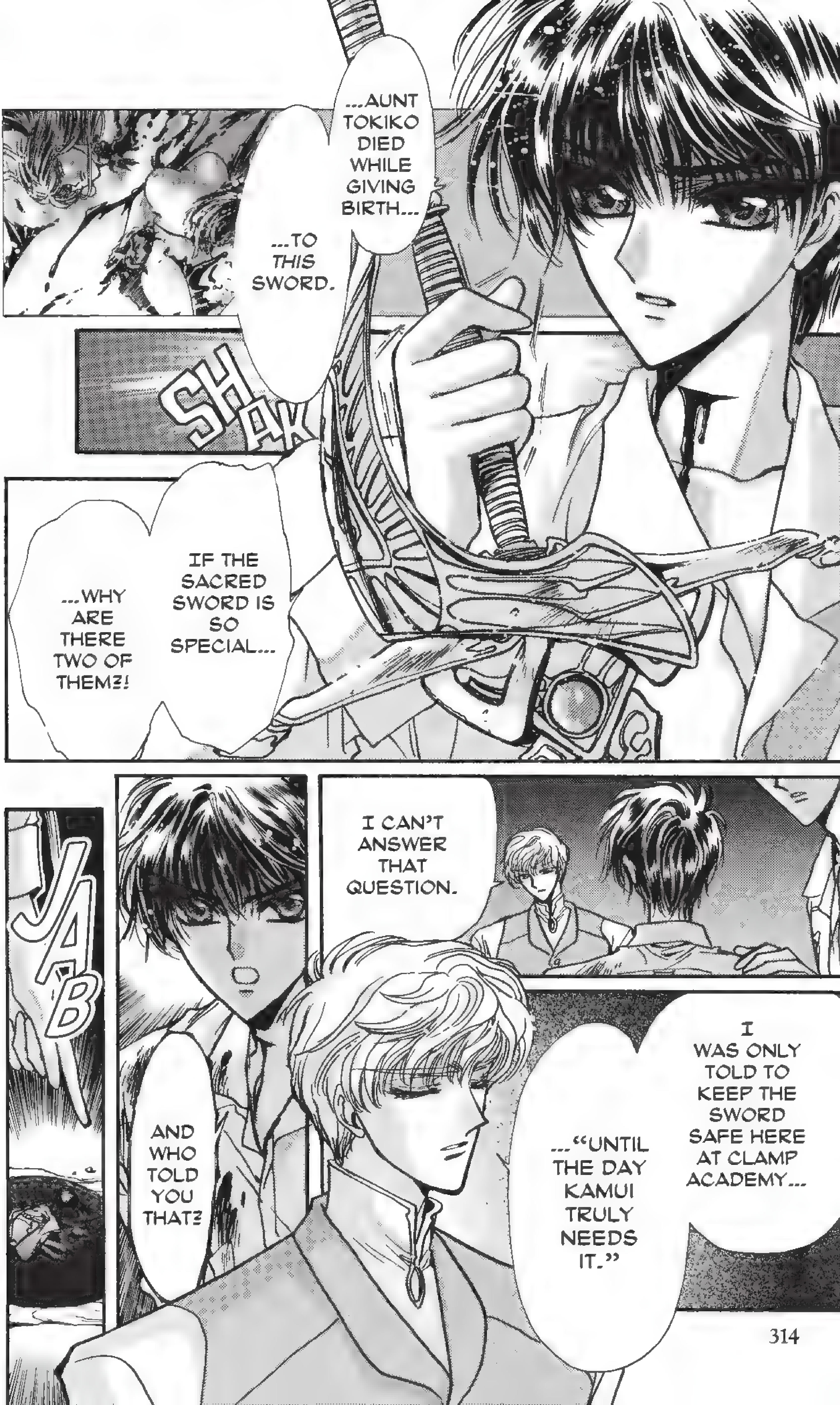

KAKYO!
HELLO, KOTORI.
ARE WE...
...INSIDE YOUR DREAM?
KIIIIIIN
WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

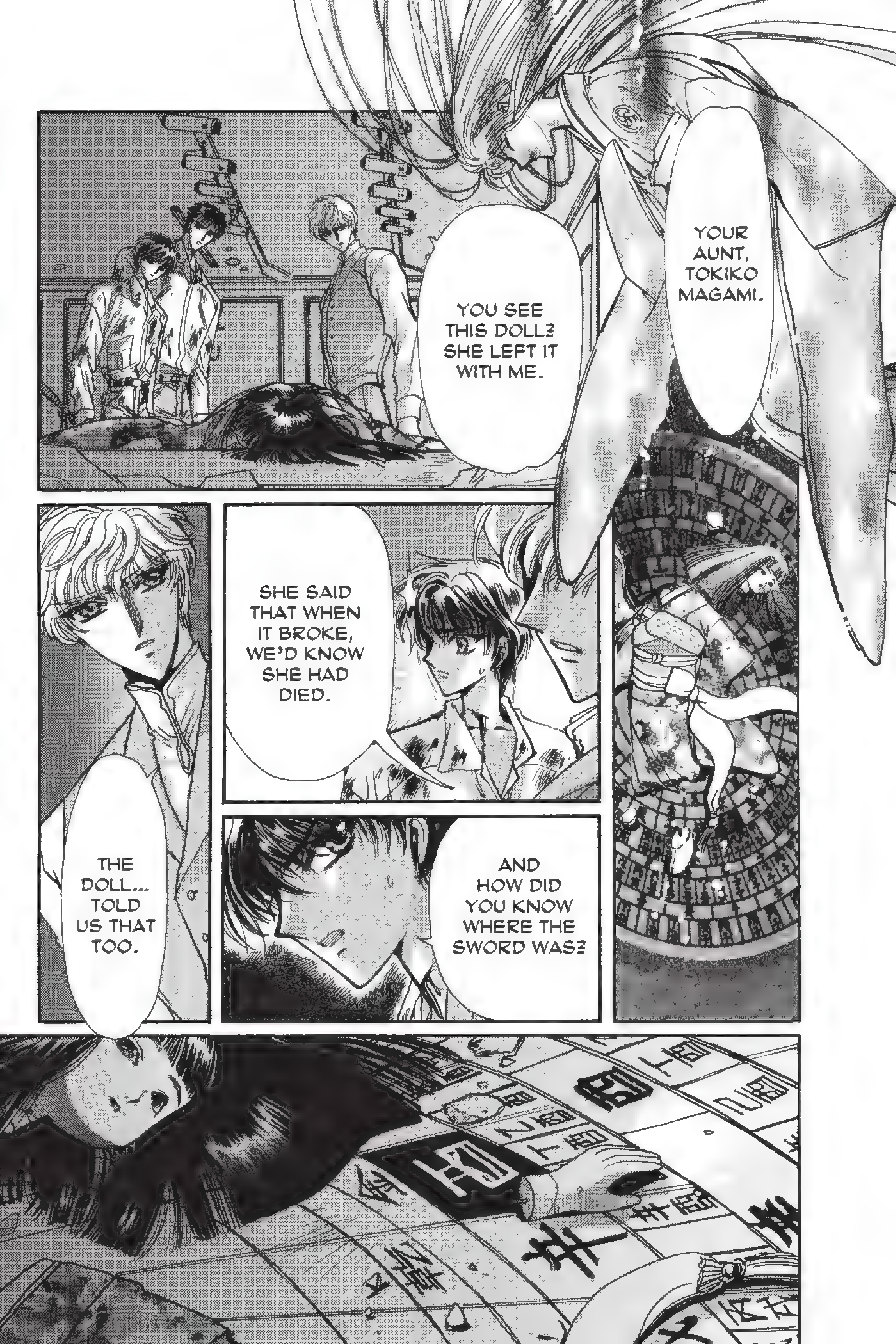

THE SACRED SWORD...
...IS CRYING.
CRYING?
IT OVERFLOWS WITH GRIEF...
...FOR THE TRAGEDY THAT WILL SOON UNFOLD.
WHAT TRAGEDY?
YOU MEAN... YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE?

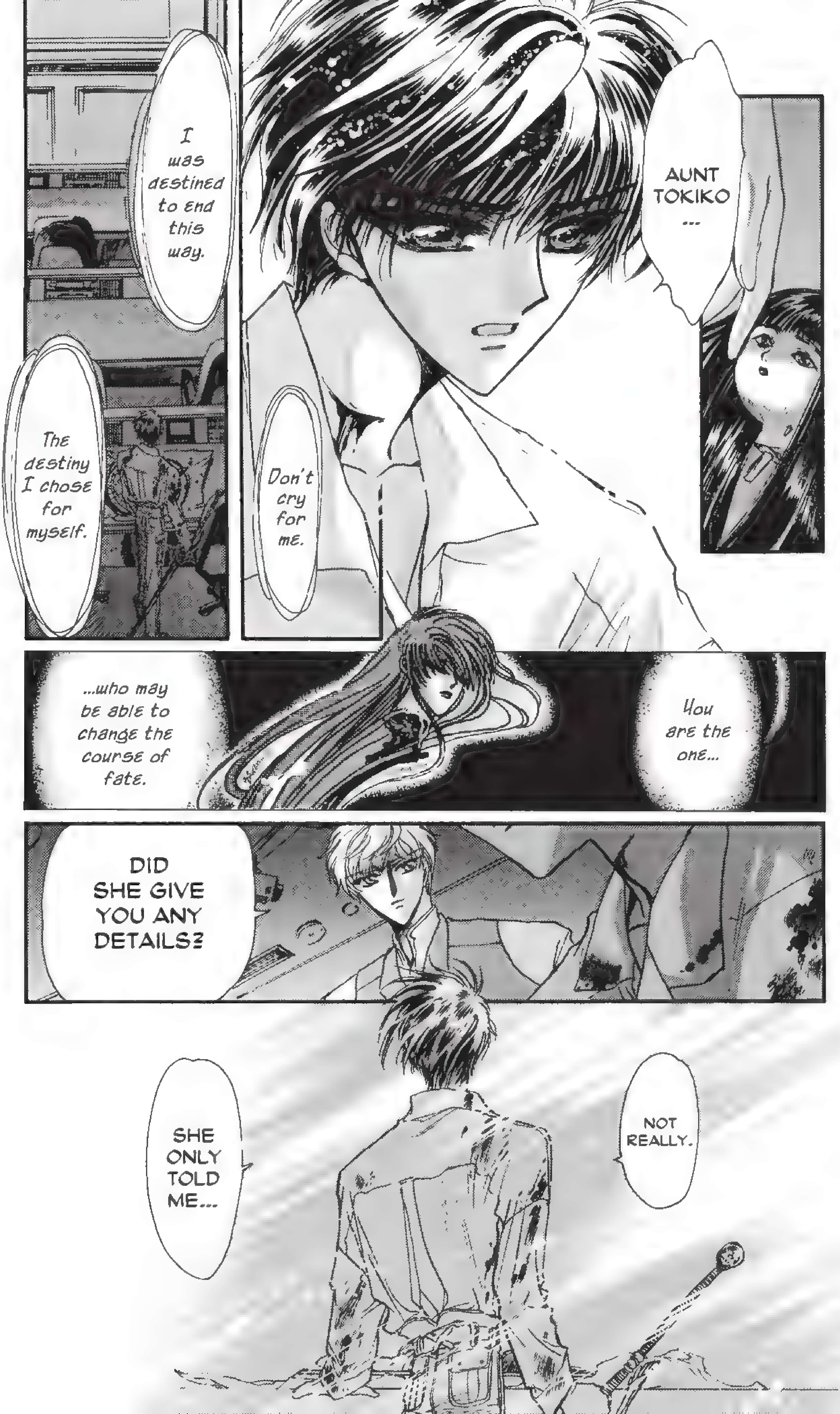

YES, I DO.
BUT ...
...THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO TO CHANGE IT.

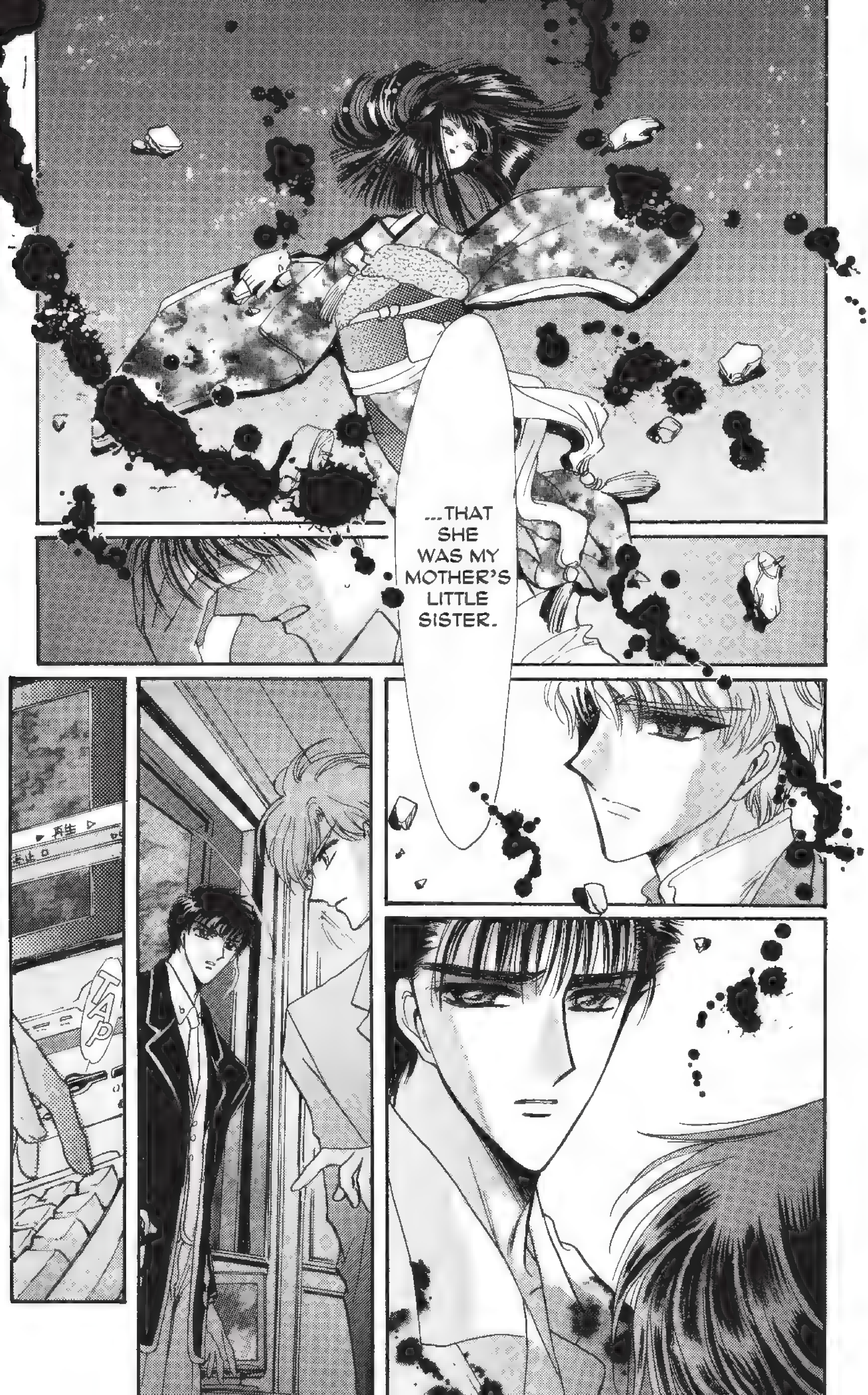

VWOA4A
DA
DATH
UMP
IT'S CRYING...

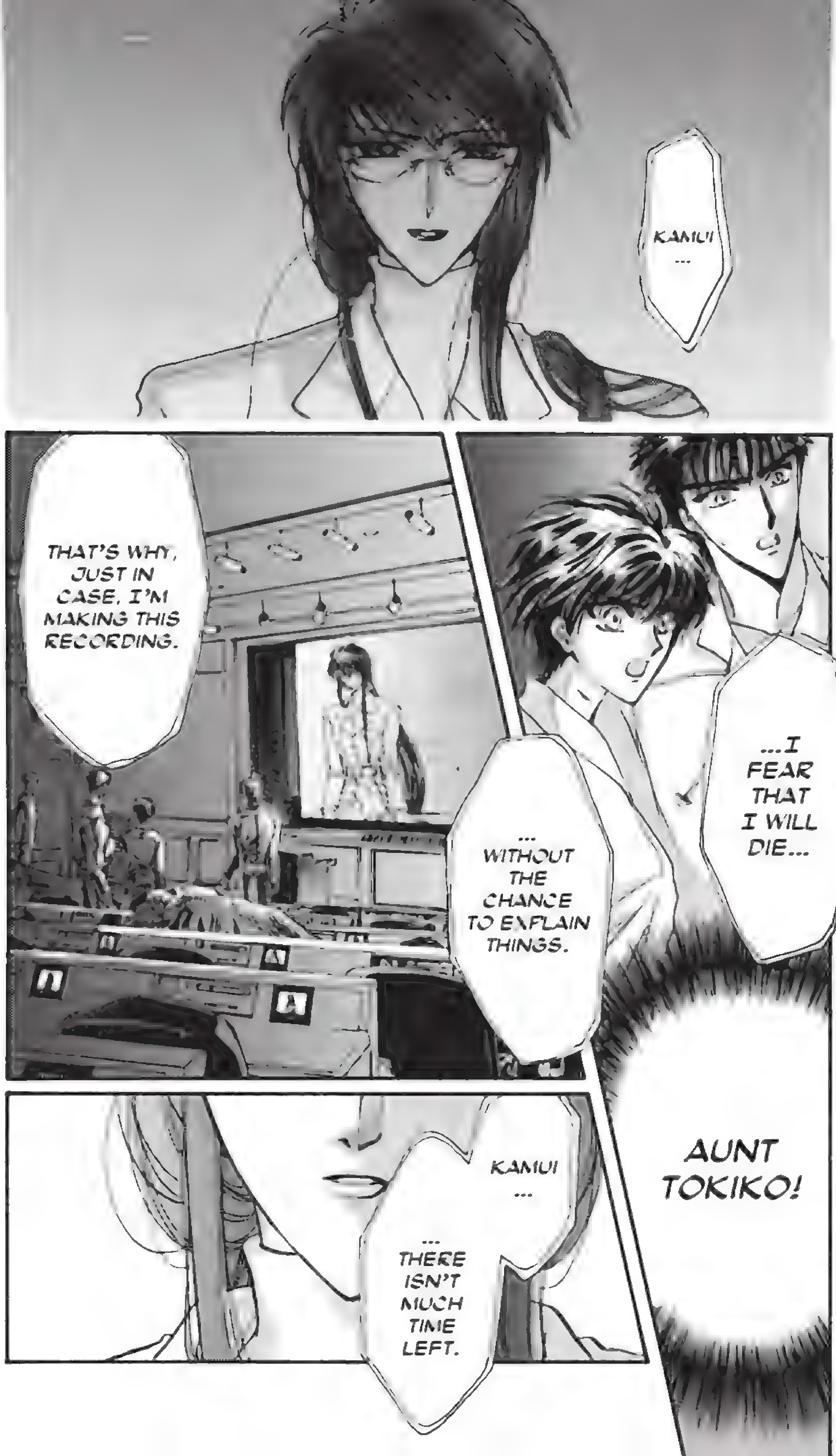

WHAT'S WRONG?!
THE SACRED SWORD...
...IS CRYING.
THE KAMUI CAN ONLY CARRY ONE OF THE TWO SWORDS INTO BATTLE.
NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, PERHAPS IT'S TRYING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.
LIKE WHAT? LIKE WHY THERE ARE *TWO* SACRED SWORDS?
ONE SWORD WAS STOLEN FROM TOGAKUSHI SHRINE, FROM FUMA AND KOTORI'S HOME.
BUT THEN...

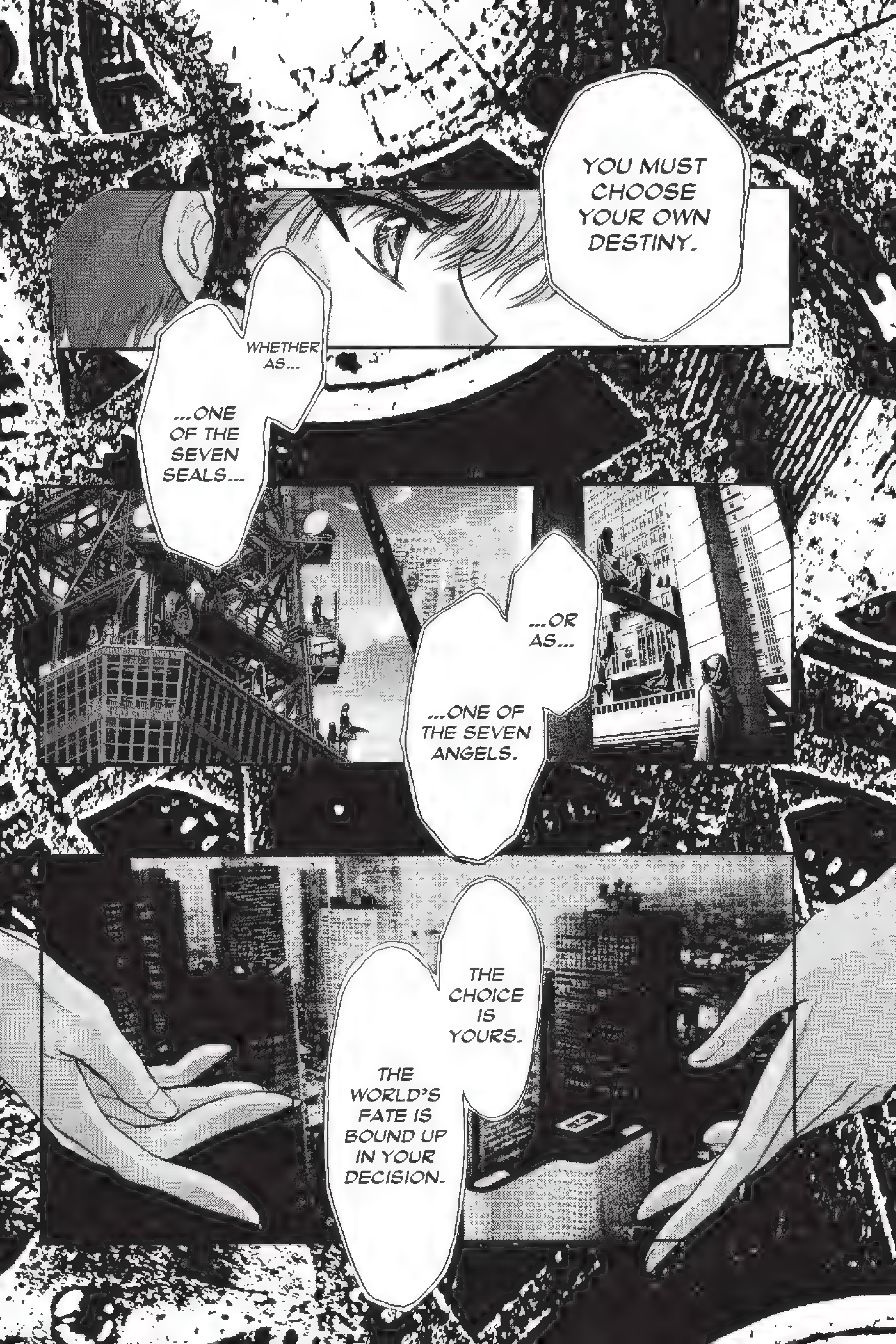

...AUNT TOKIKO DIED WHILE GIVING BIRTH...
...TO *THIS* SWORD.
SHAK
IF THE SACRED SWORD IS SO SPECIAL...
...WHY ARE THERE TWO OF THEM?!
I CAN'T ANSWER THAT QUESTION.
I WAS ONLY TOLD TO KEEP THE SWORD SAFE HERE AT CLAMP ACADEMY...
..."UNTIL THE DAY KAMUI TRULY NEEDS IT."
AND WHO TOLD YOU THAT?
JAB

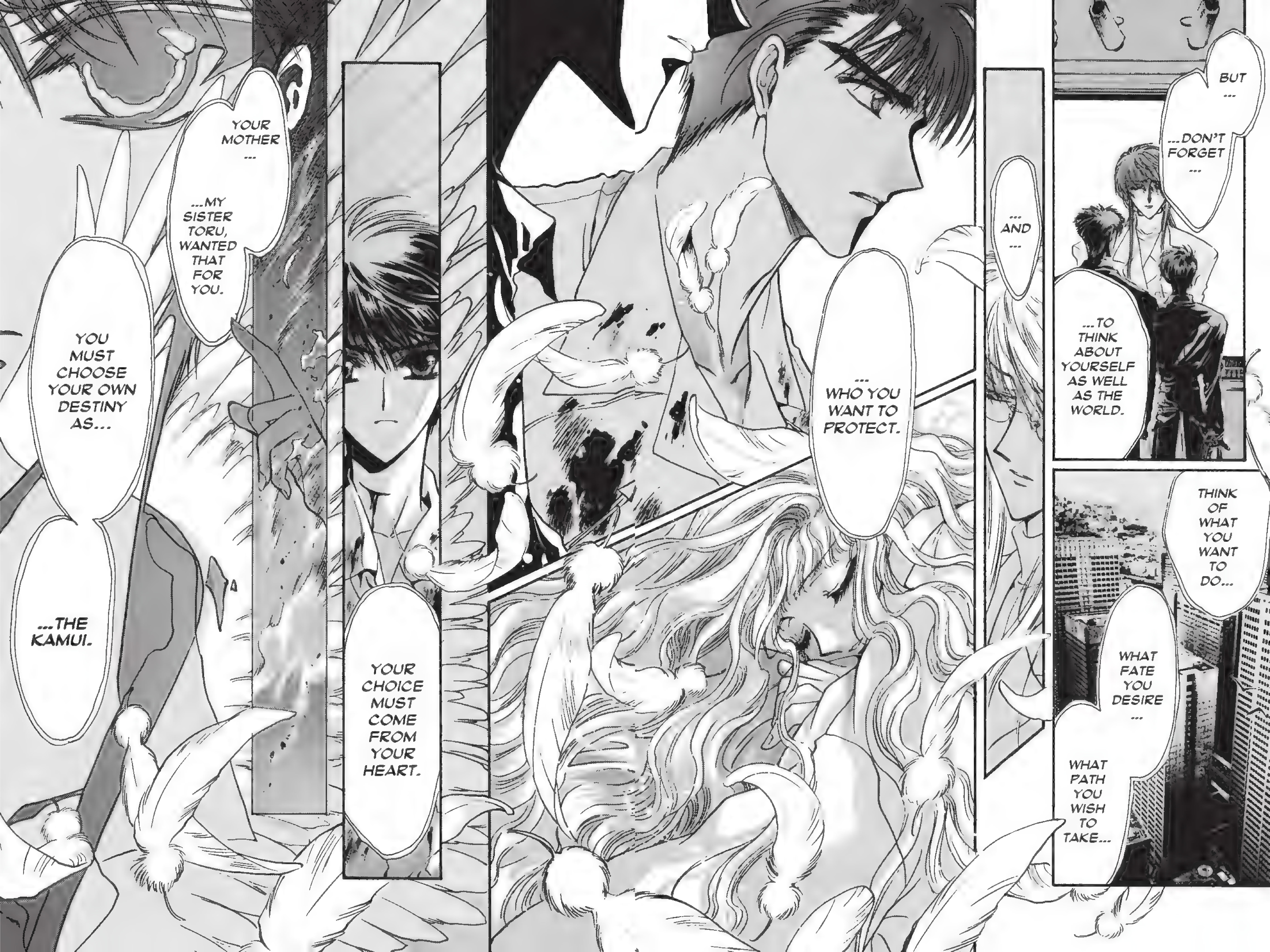

YOUR AUNT, TOKIKO MAGAMI.
YOU SEE THIS DOLL? SHE LEFT IT WITH ME.
SHE SAID THAT WHEN IT BROKE, WE'D KNOW SHE HAD DIED.
AND HOW DID YOU KNOW WHERE THE SWORD WAS?
THE DOLL... TOLD US THAT TOO.

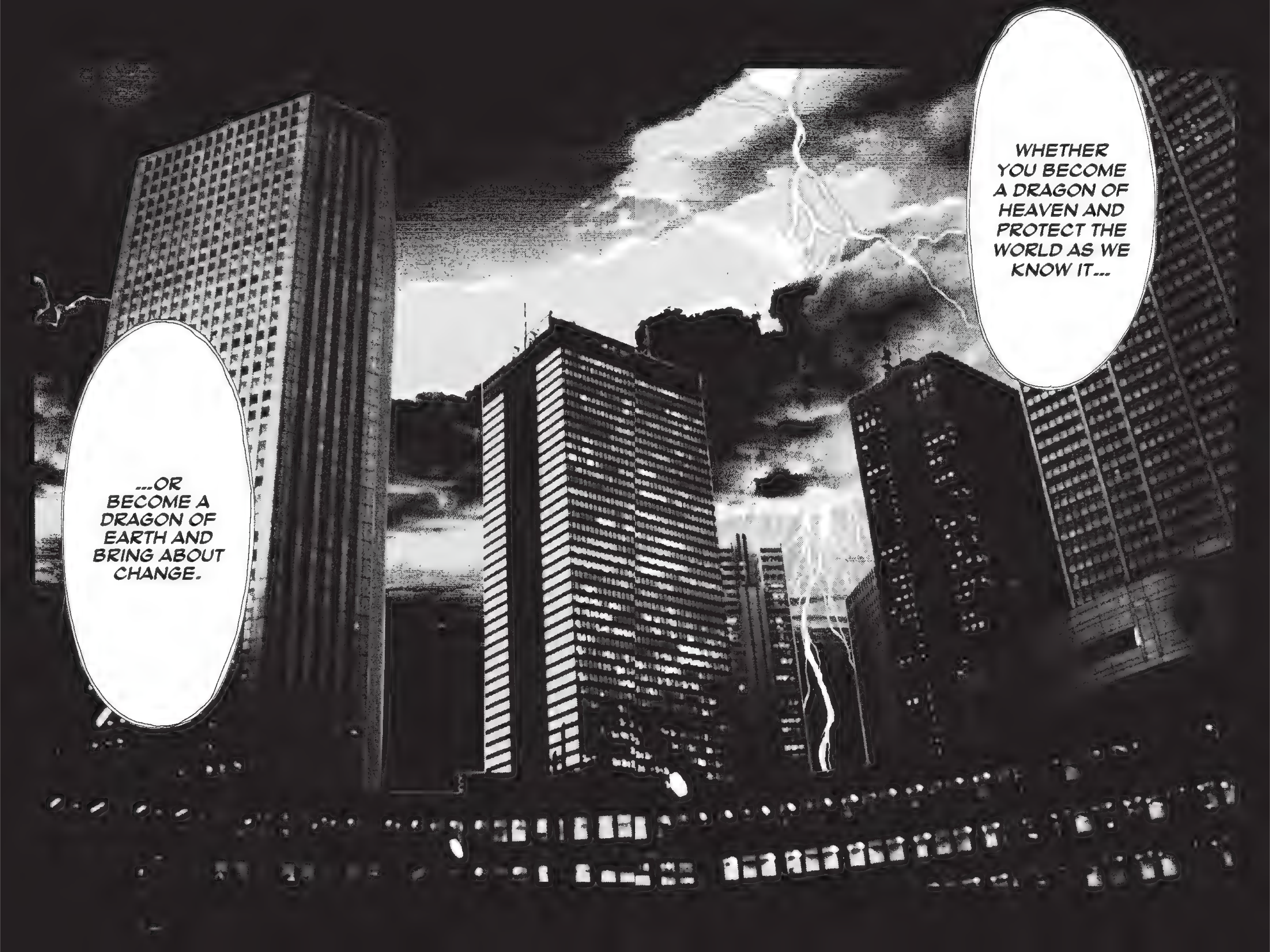

AUNT TOKIKO ...
Don't cry for me.
I was destined to end this way.
The destiny I chose for myself.
You are the one...
...who may be able to change the course of fate.
DID SHE GIVE YOU ANY DETAILS?
NOT REALLY.
SHE ONLY TOLD ME...

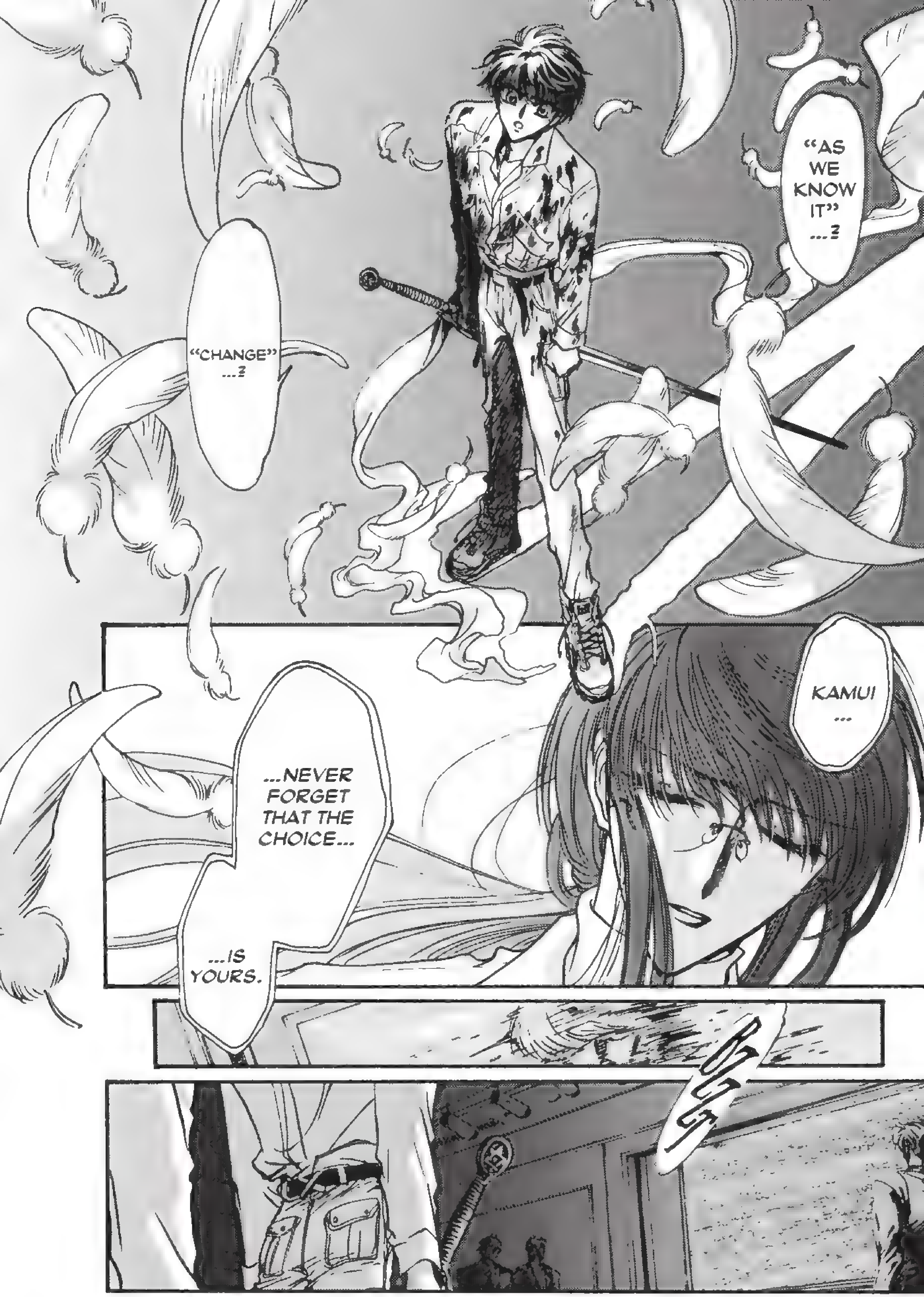

...THAT SHE WAS MY MOTHER'S LITTLE SISTER.
再生
TAP

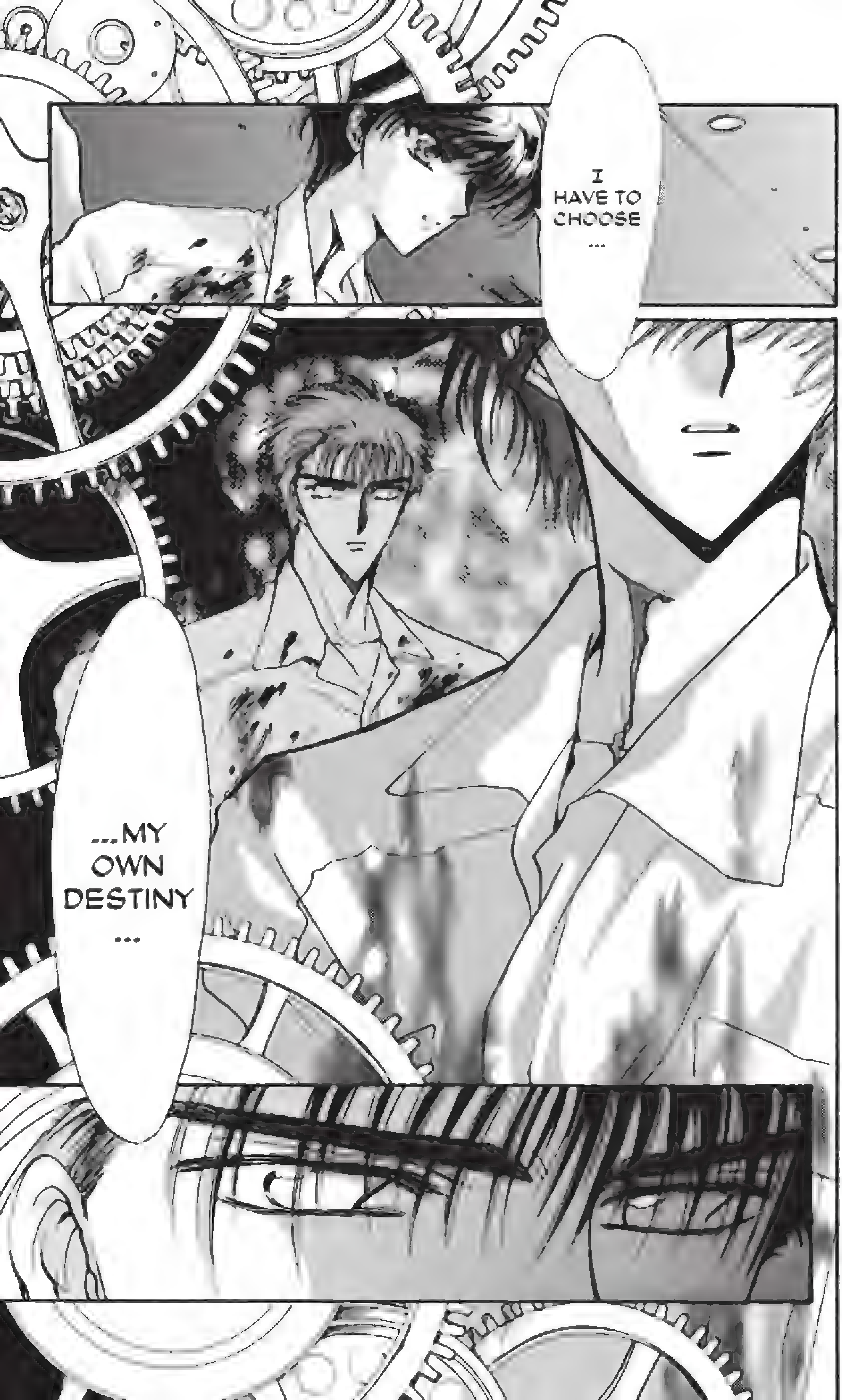

KAMUI ...
...I FEAR THAT I WILL DIE...
... WITHOUT THE CHANCE TO EXPLAIN THINGS.
THAT'S WHY, JUST IN CASE, I'M MAKING THIS RECORDING.
AUNT TOKIKO!
KAMUI ...
... THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME LEFT.

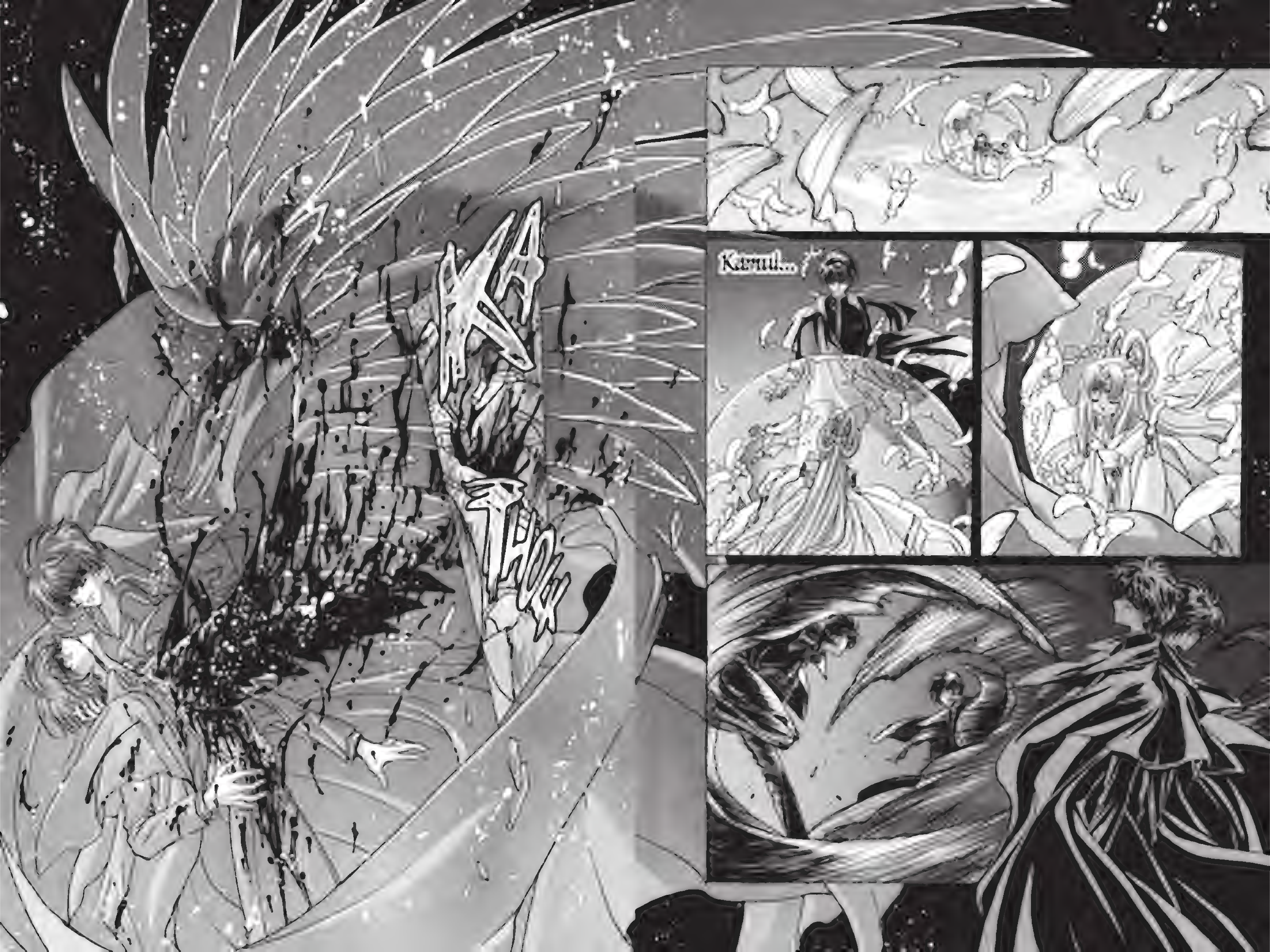

YOU MUST CHOOSE YOUR OWN DESTINY.
WHETHER AS...
...ONE OF THE SEVEN SEALS...
...OR AS...
...ONE OF THE SEVEN ANGELS.
THE CHOICE IS YOURS.
THE WORLD'S FATE IS BOUND UP IN YOUR DECISION.

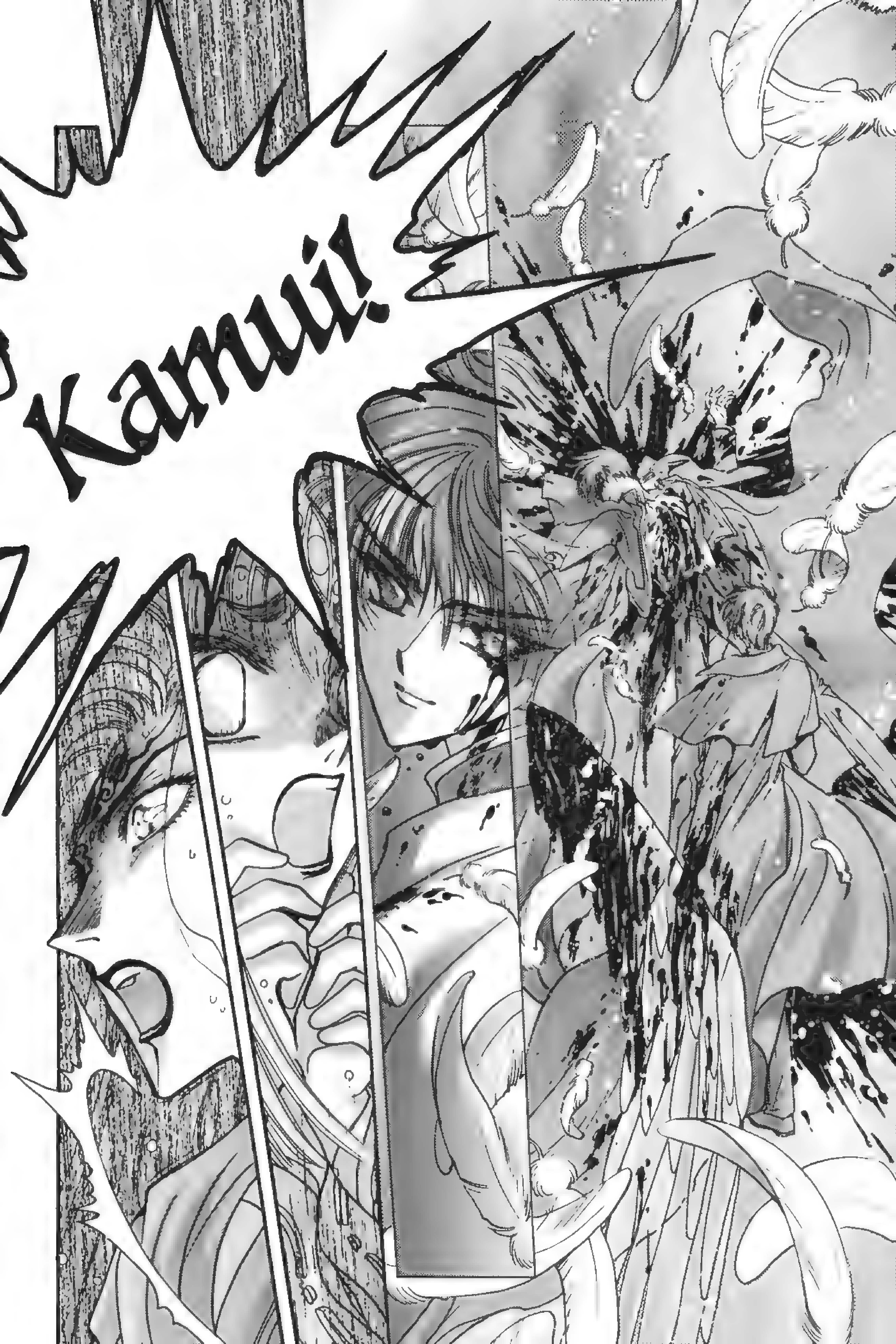

BUT ...
...DON'T FORGET ...
...TO THINK ABOUT YOURSELF AS WELL AS THE WORLD.
THINK OF WHAT YOU WANT TO DO...
WHAT FATE YOU DESIRE ...
WHAT PATH YOU WISH TO TAKE...
... AND ...
... WHO YOU WANT TO PROTECT.
YOUR CHOICE MUST COME FROM YOUR HEART.
YOUR MOTHER ...
...MY SISTER TORU, WANTED THAT FOR YOU.
YOU MUST CHOOSE YOUR OWN DESTINY AS...
...THE KAMUI.

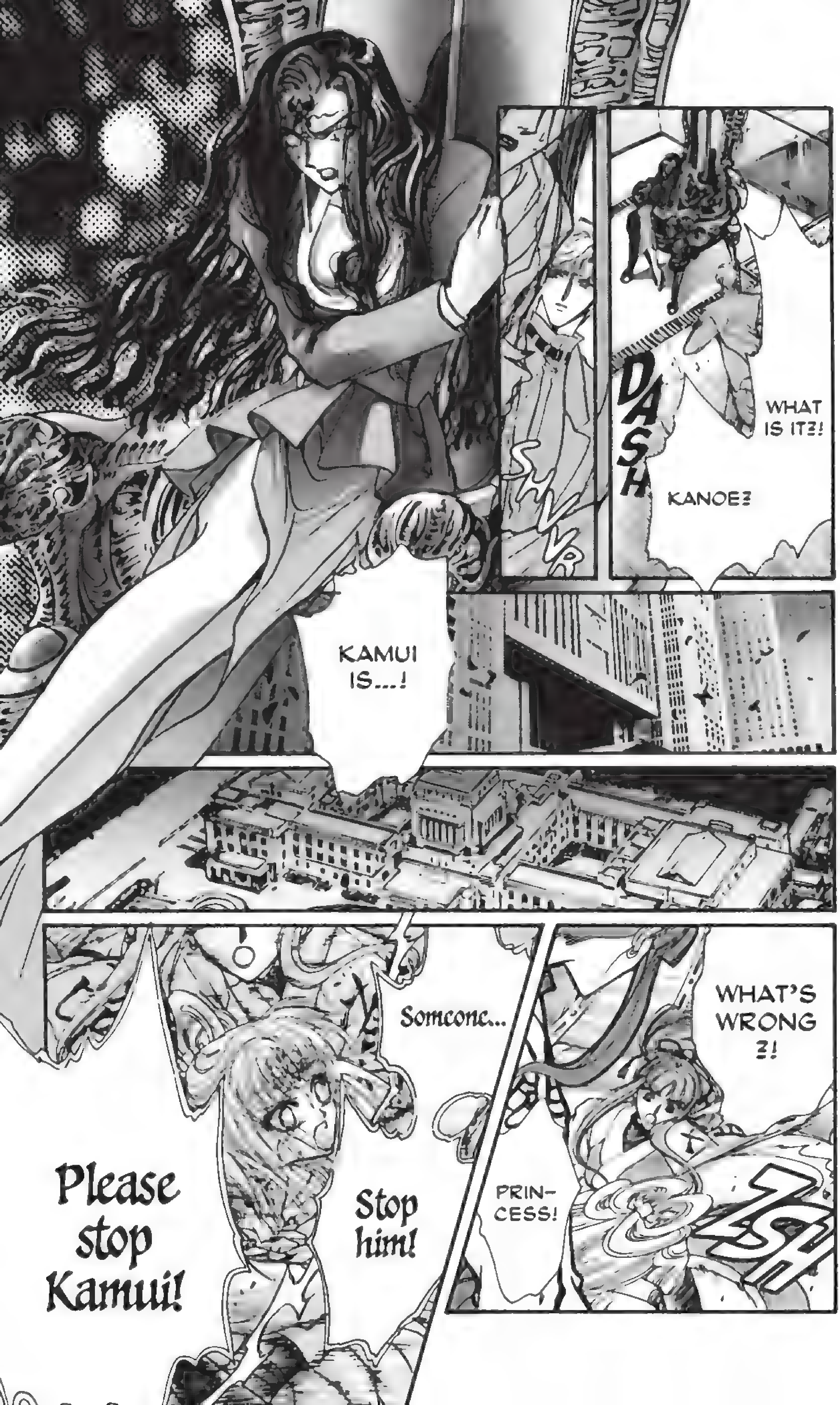

WHETHER YOU BECOME A DRAGON OF HEAVEN AND PROTECT THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT...
...OR BECOME A DRAGON OF EARTH AND BRING ABOUT CHANGE.

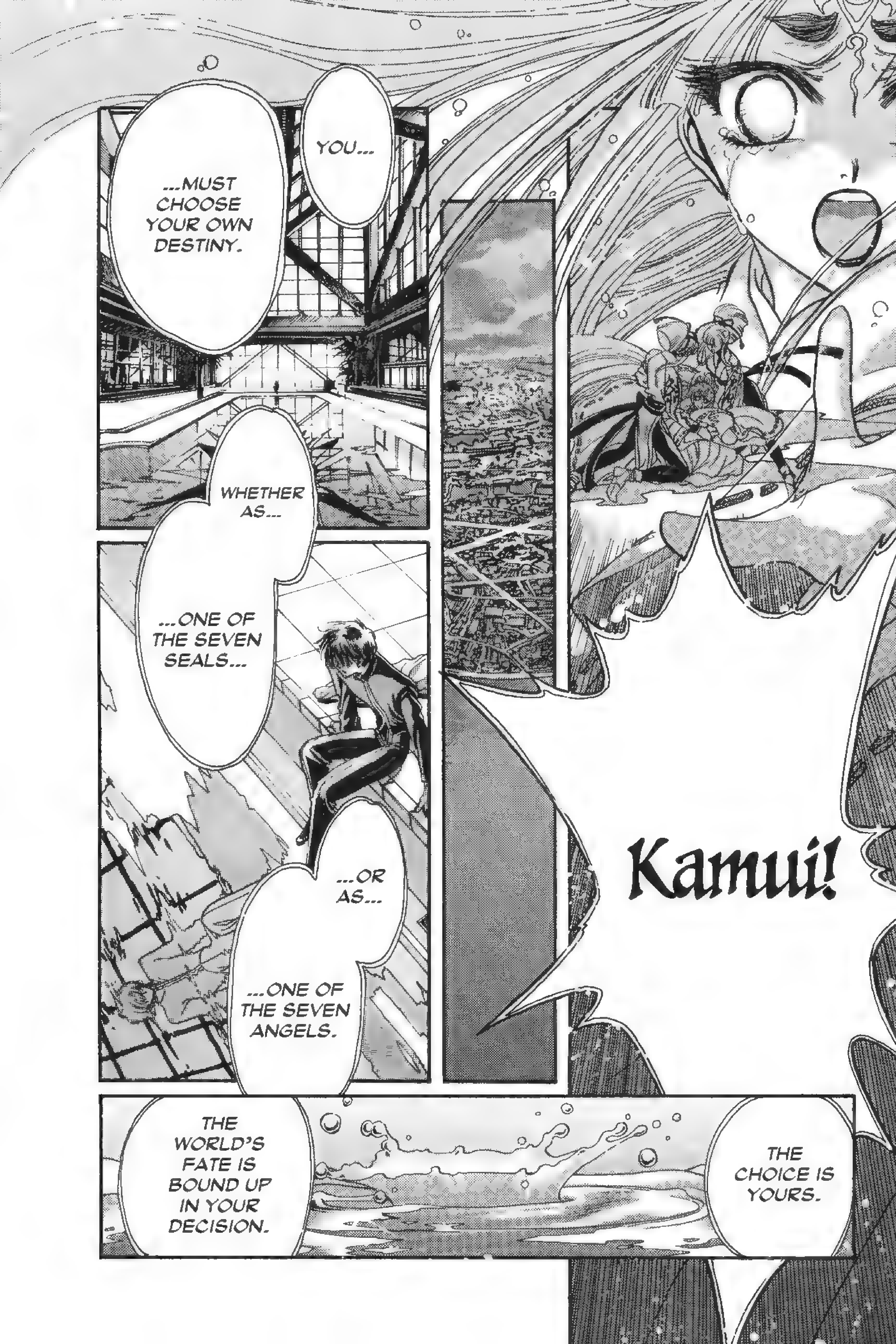

"AS WE KNOW IT" ...?
"CHANGE" ...?
KAMUI ...
...NEVER FORGET THAT THE CHOICE...
...IS YOURS.

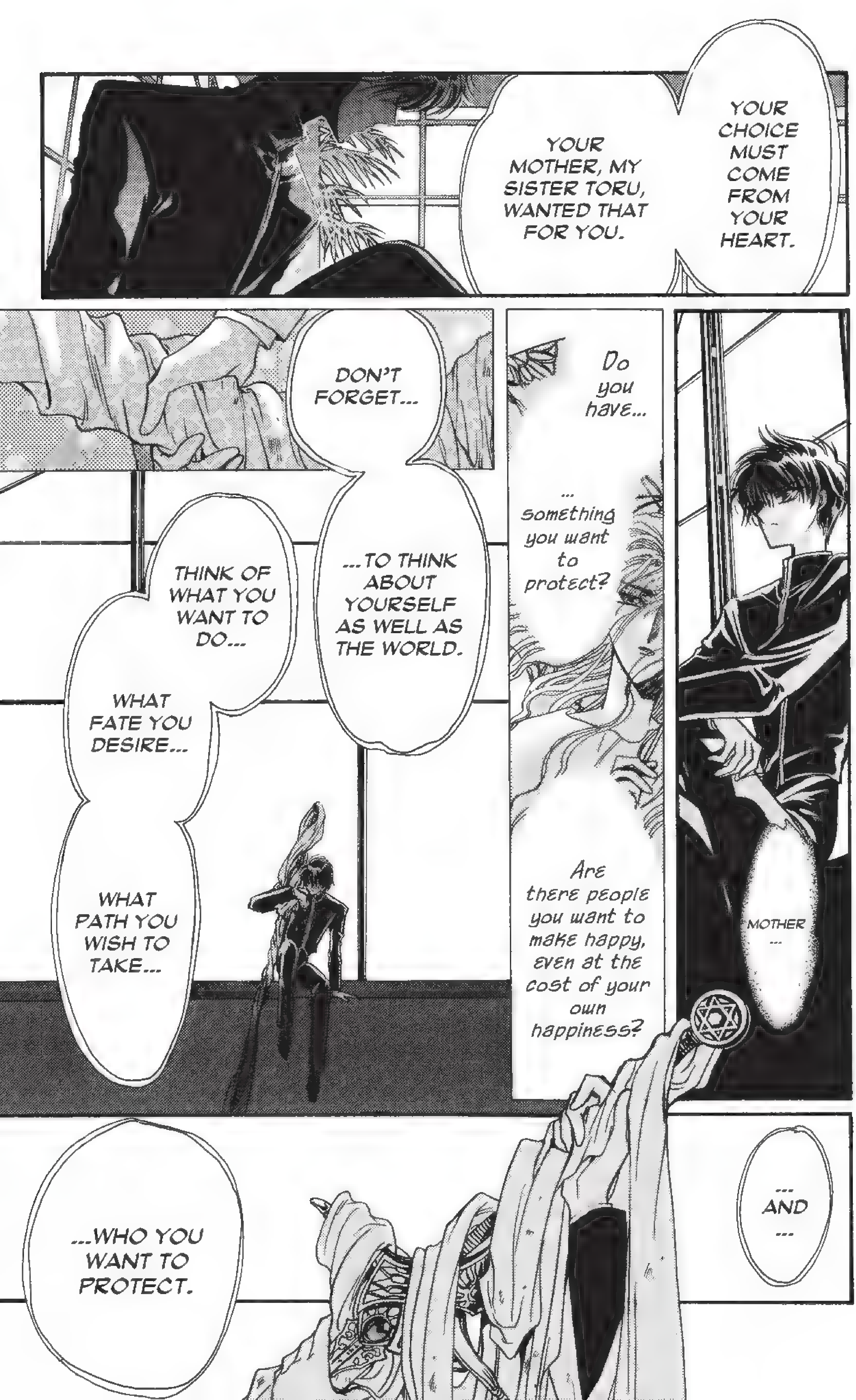

I HAVE TO CHOOSE ...
...MY OWN DESTINY ...

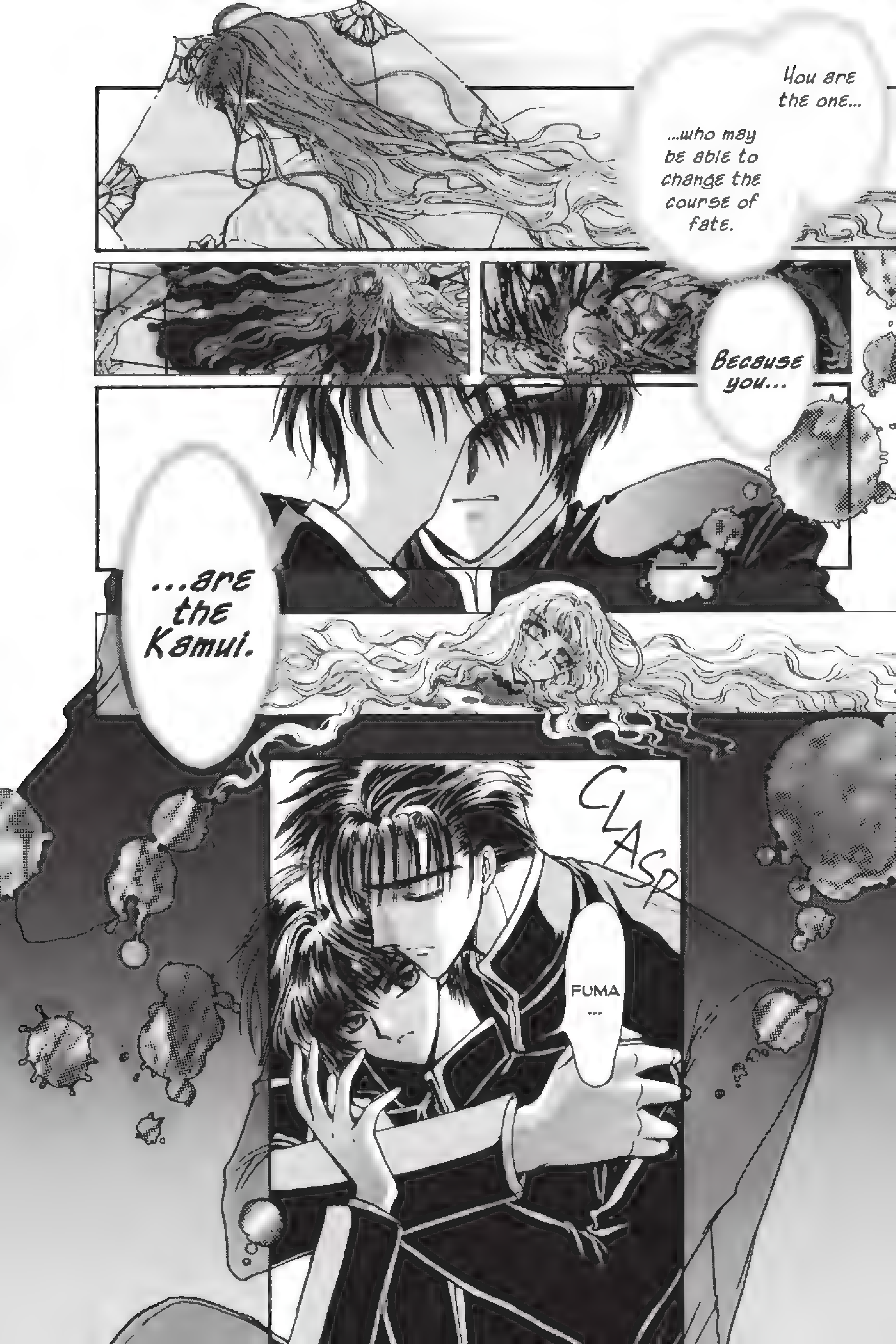

Kamui...
KA
THOK

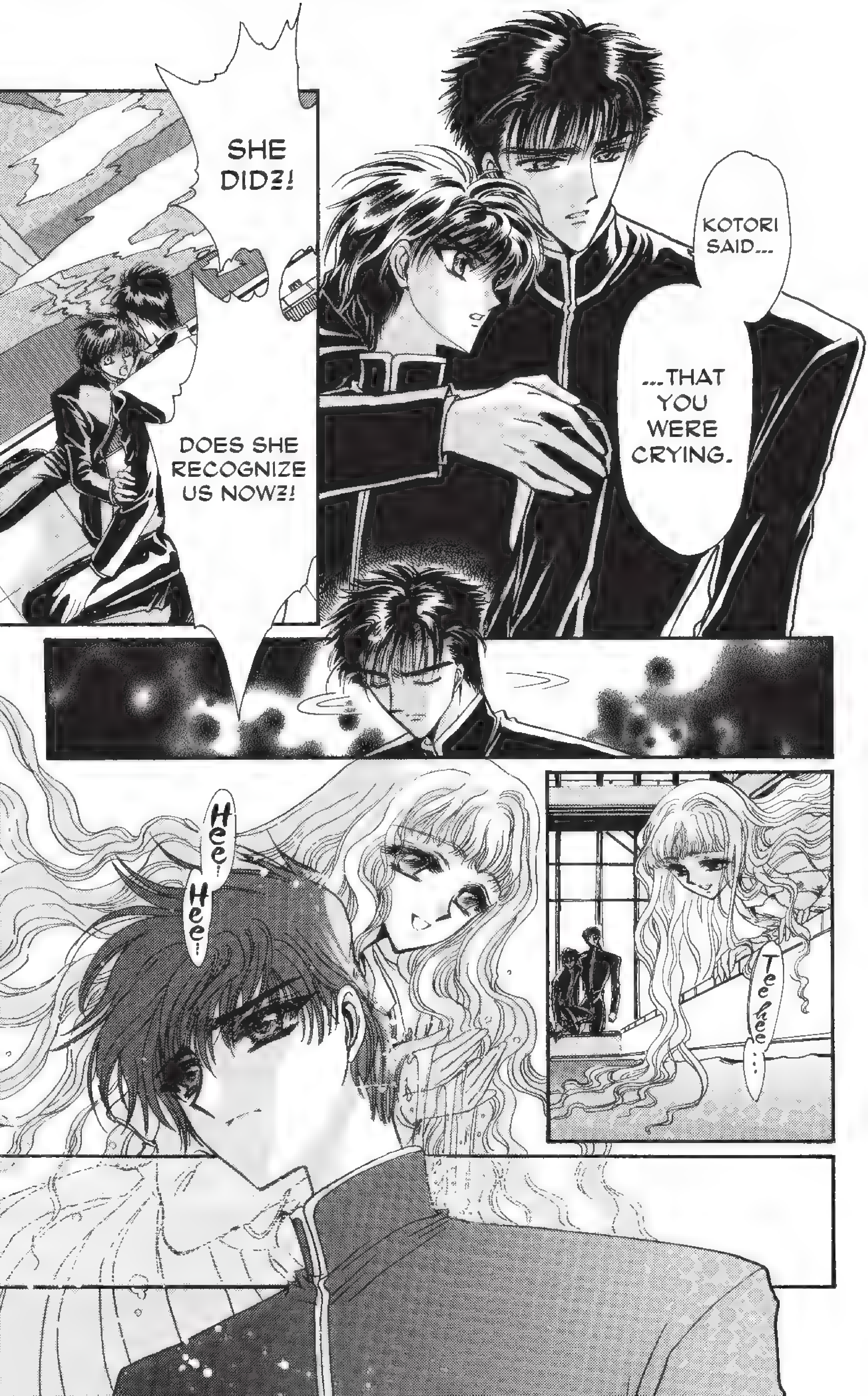

Kamui!

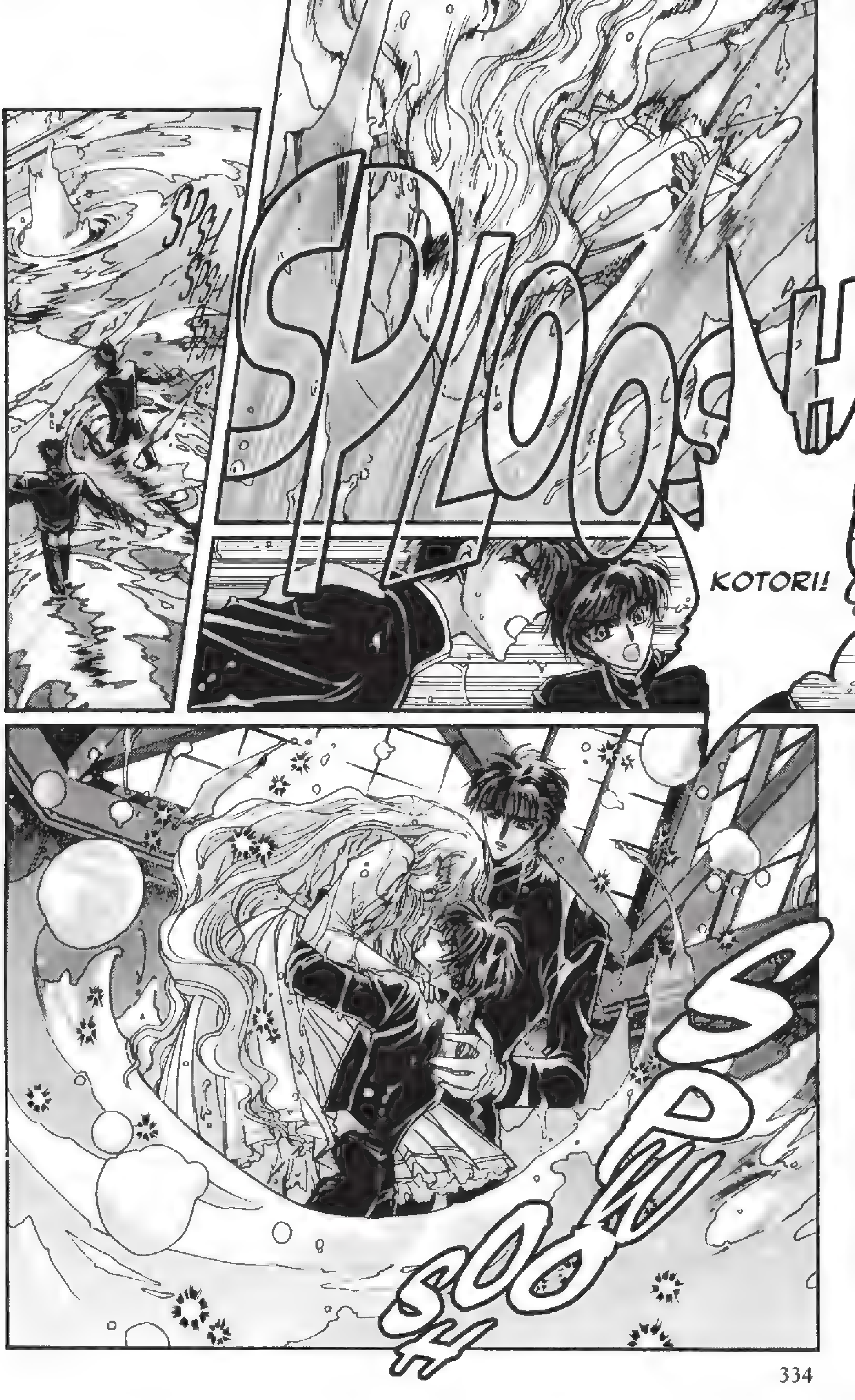

DASH
WHAT IS IT?!
KANOE?
SHVR
KAMUI IS...!
WHAT'S WRONG ?!
PRIN-CESS!
TSH
Someone...
Stop him!
Please stop Kamui!

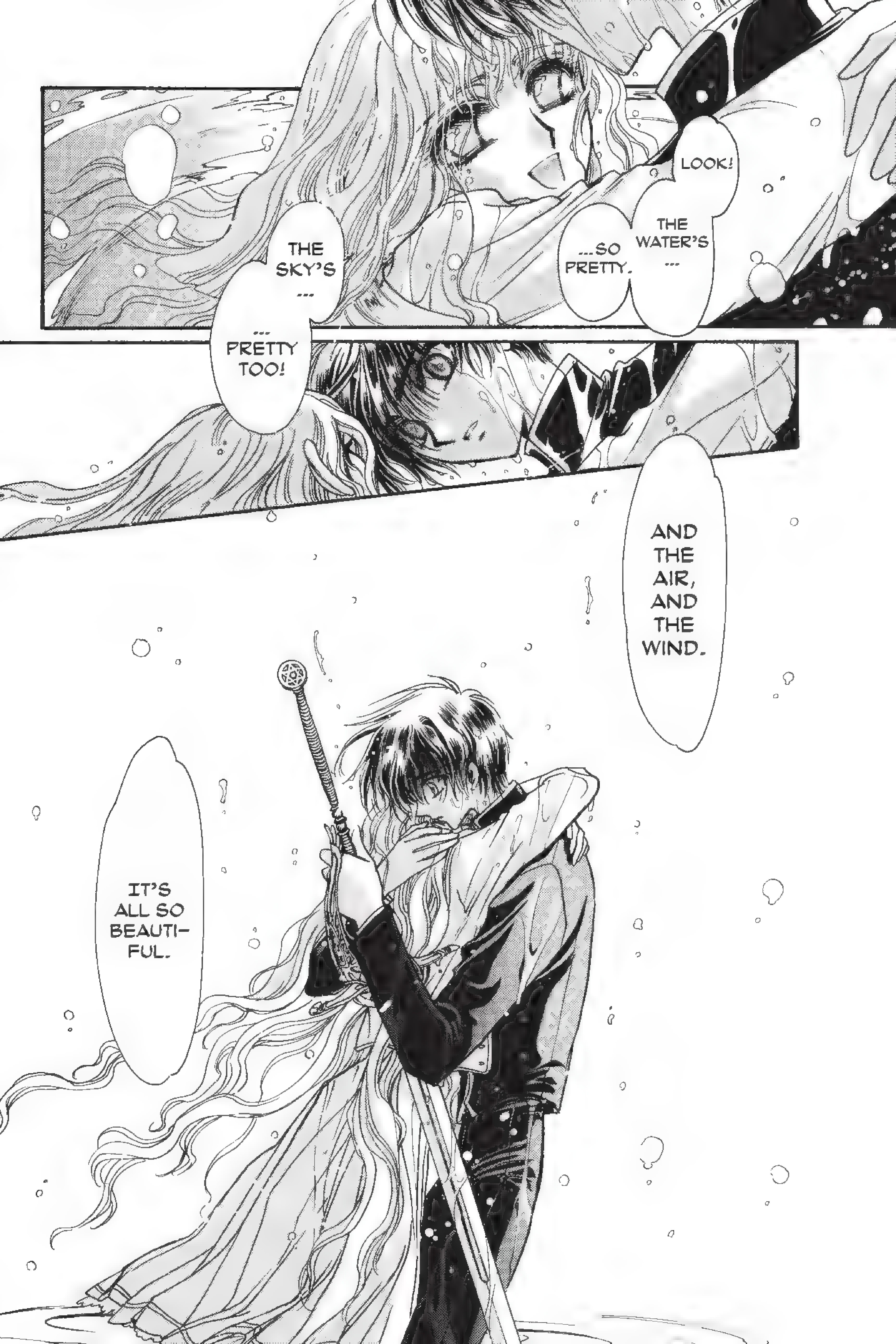

Kamui!
YOU...
...MUST CHOOSE YOUR OWN DESTINY.
WHETHER AS...
...ONE OF THE SEVEN SEALS...
...OR AS...
...ONE OF THE SEVEN ANGELS.
THE CHOICE IS YOURS.
THE WORLD'S FATE IS BOUND UP IN YOUR DECISION.

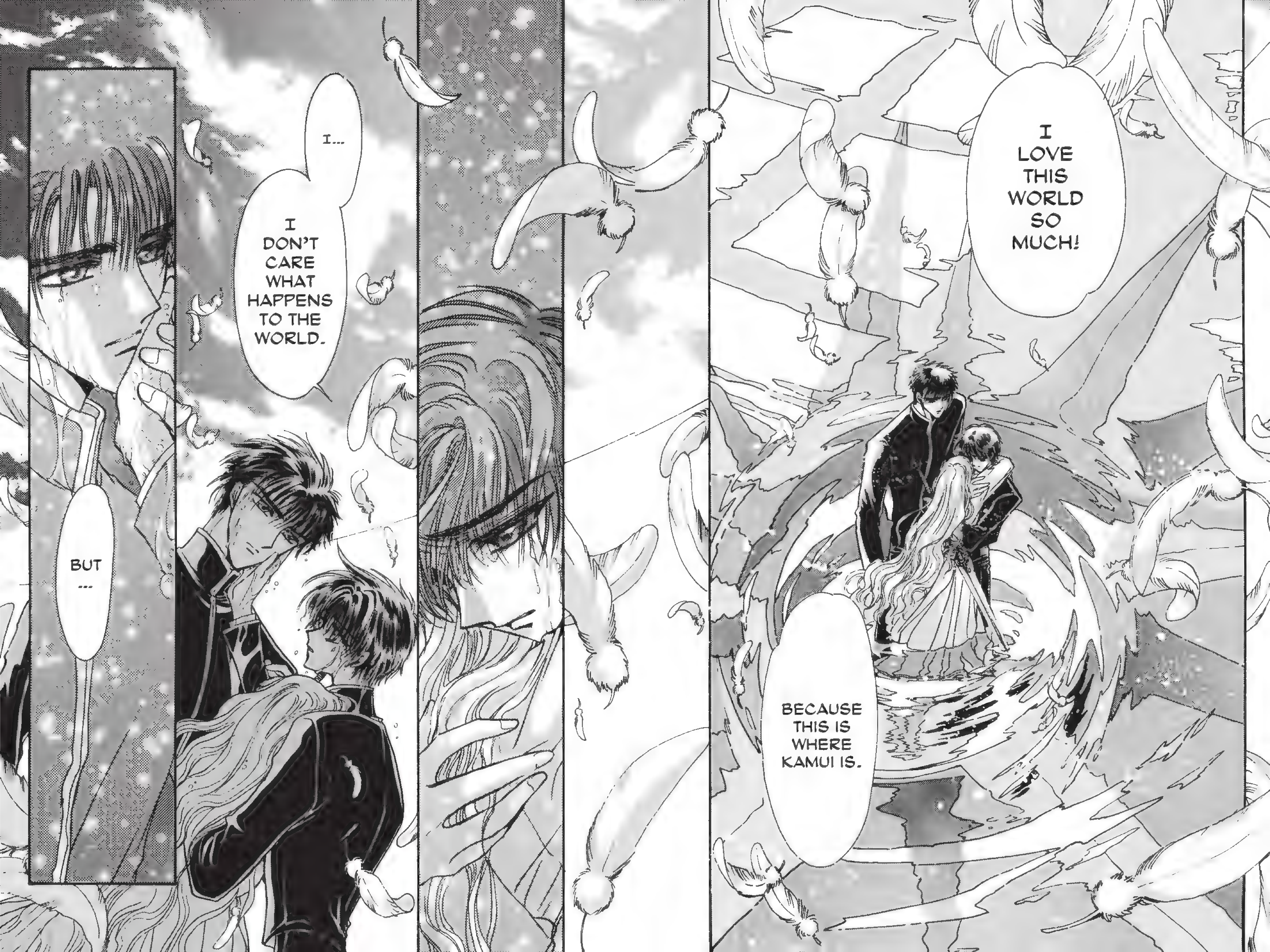

YOUR CHOICE MUST COME FROM YOUR HEART.
YOUR MOTHER, MY SISTER TORU, WANTED THAT FOR YOU.
MOTHER ...
Do you have...
... something you want to protect?
Are there people you want to make happy, even at the cost of your own happiness?
DON'T FORGET...
...TO THINK ABOUT YOURSELF AS WELL AS THE WORLD.
THINK OF WHAT YOU WANT TO DO...
WHAT FATE YOU DESIRE...
WHAT PATH YOU WISH TO TAKE...
... AND ...
...WHO YOU WANT TO PROTECT.

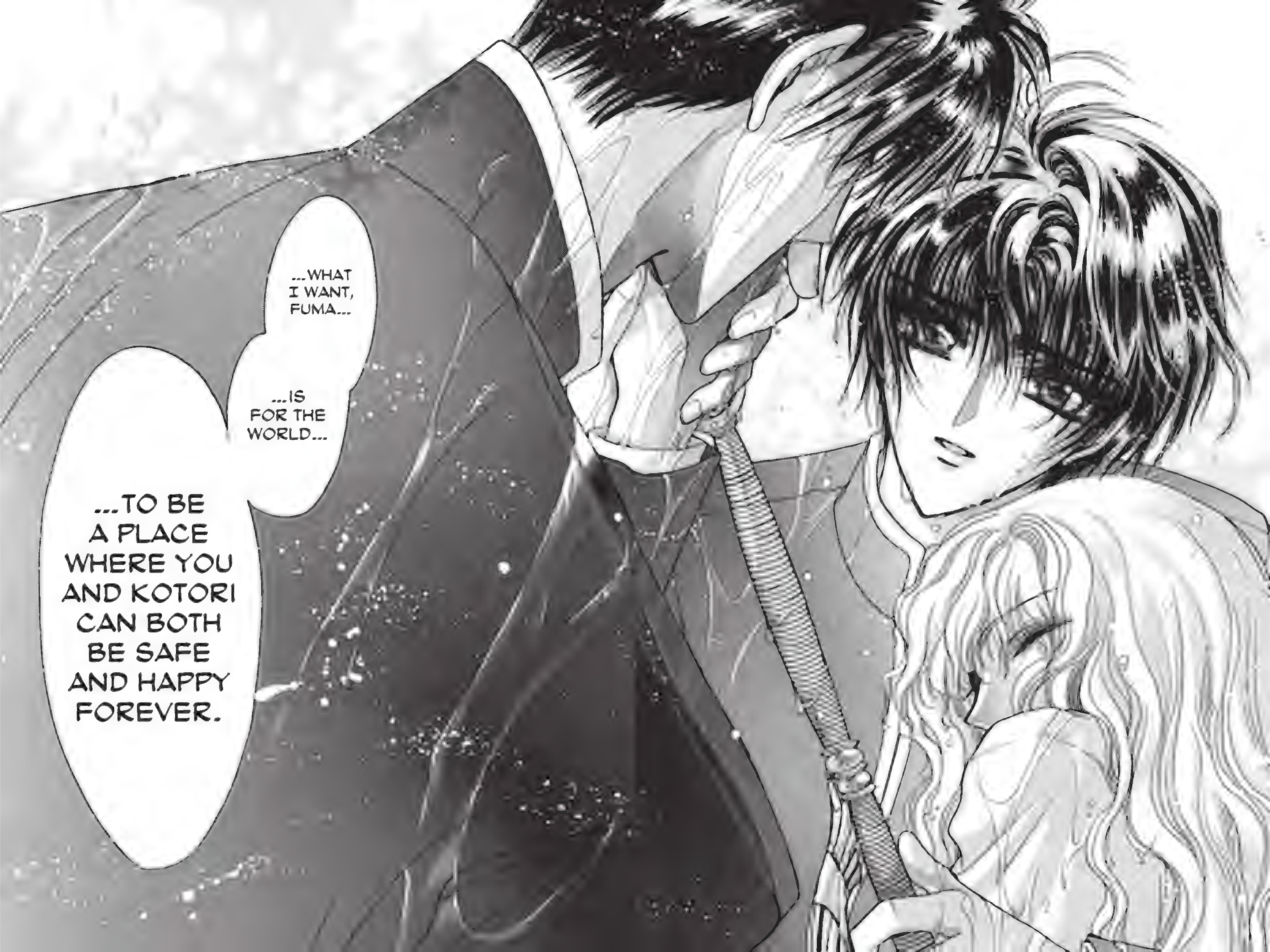

You are the one...
...who may be able to change the course of fate.
Because you...
...are the Kamui.
CLASP
FUMA ...

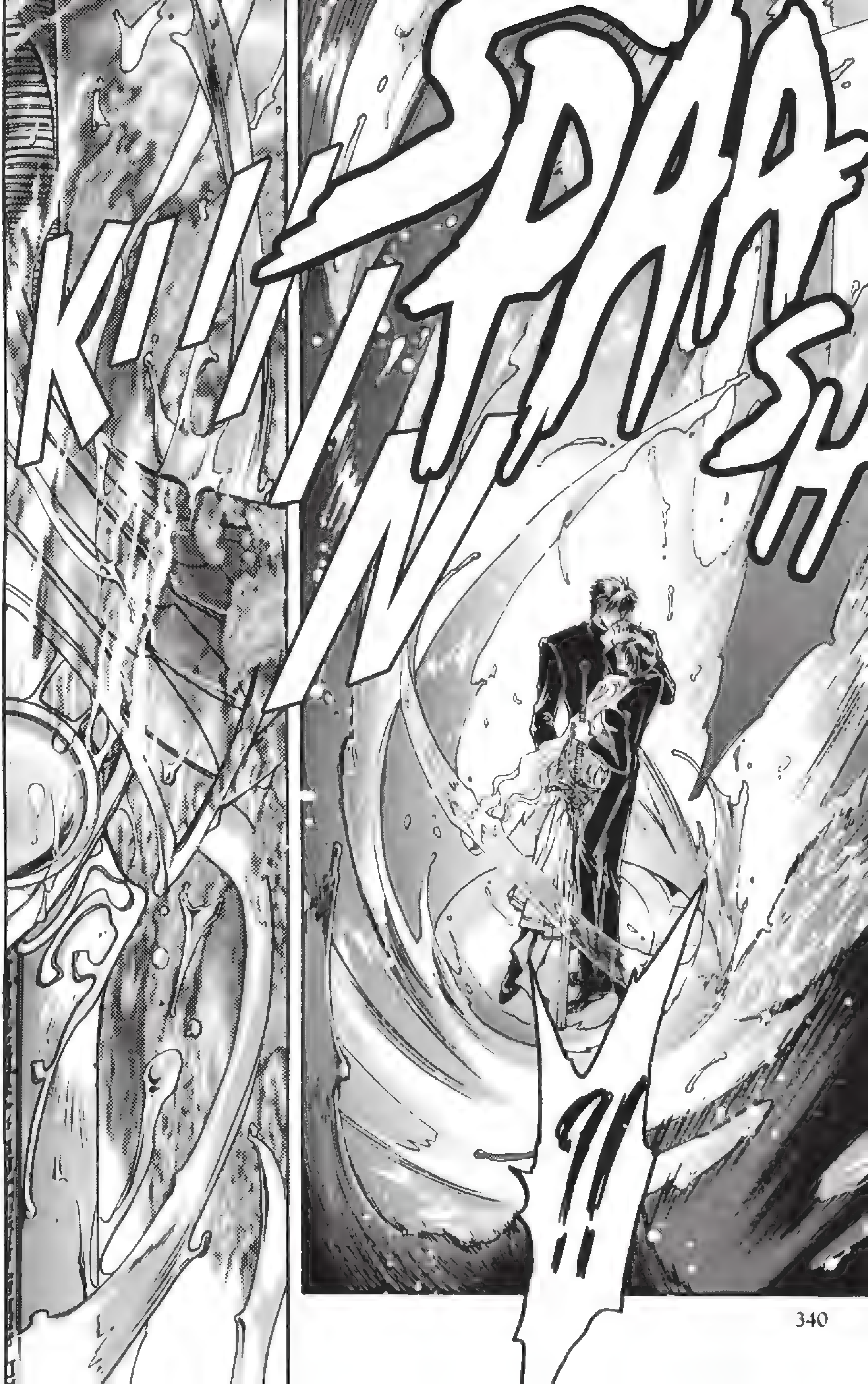

KOTORI SAID...
...THAT YOU WERE CRYING.
SHE DID?!
DOES SHE RECOGNIZE US NOW?!
Tee hee...
Hee hee...

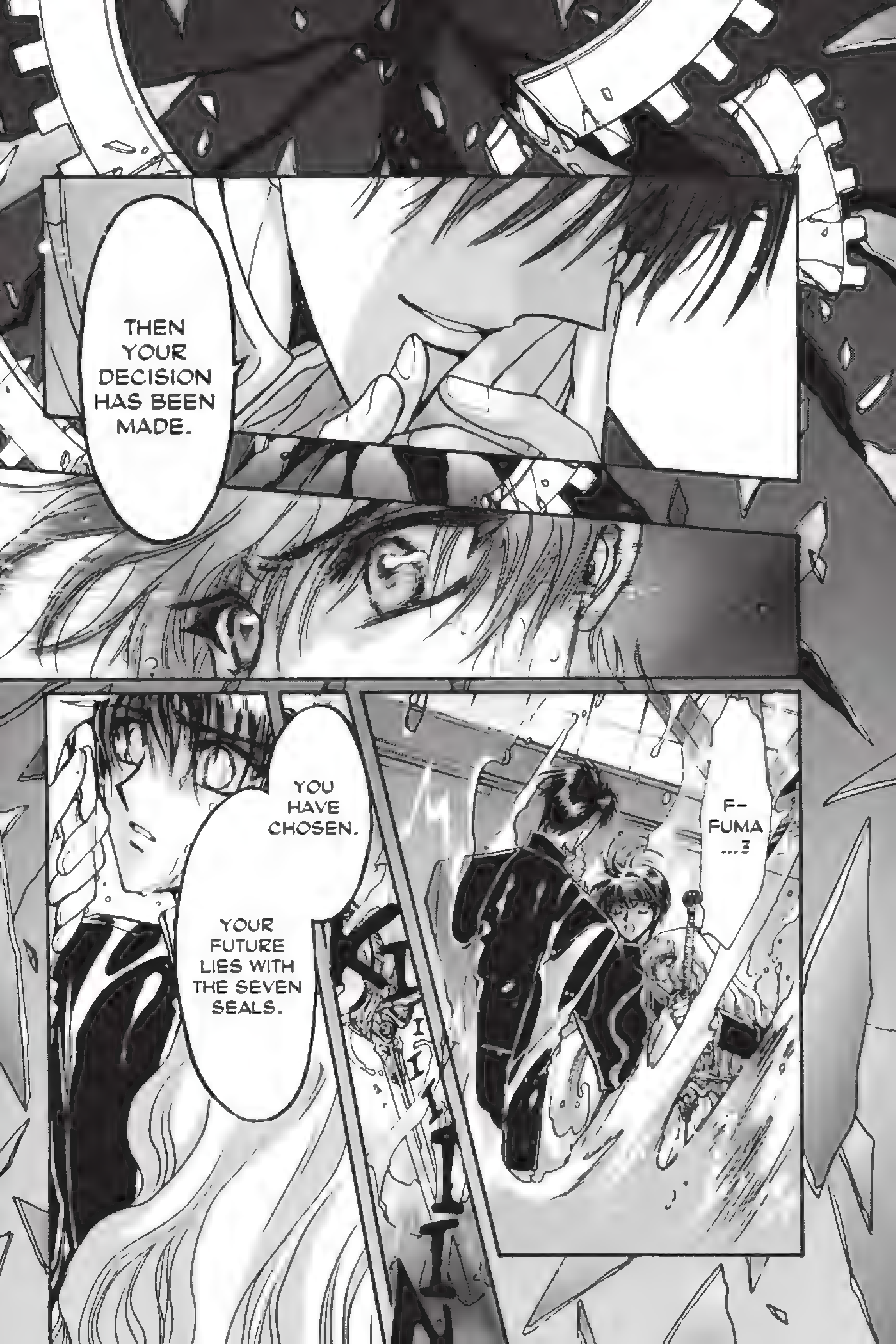

SPLOOOSH
KOTORI!
SPSH
SPSH
SPLOOSH

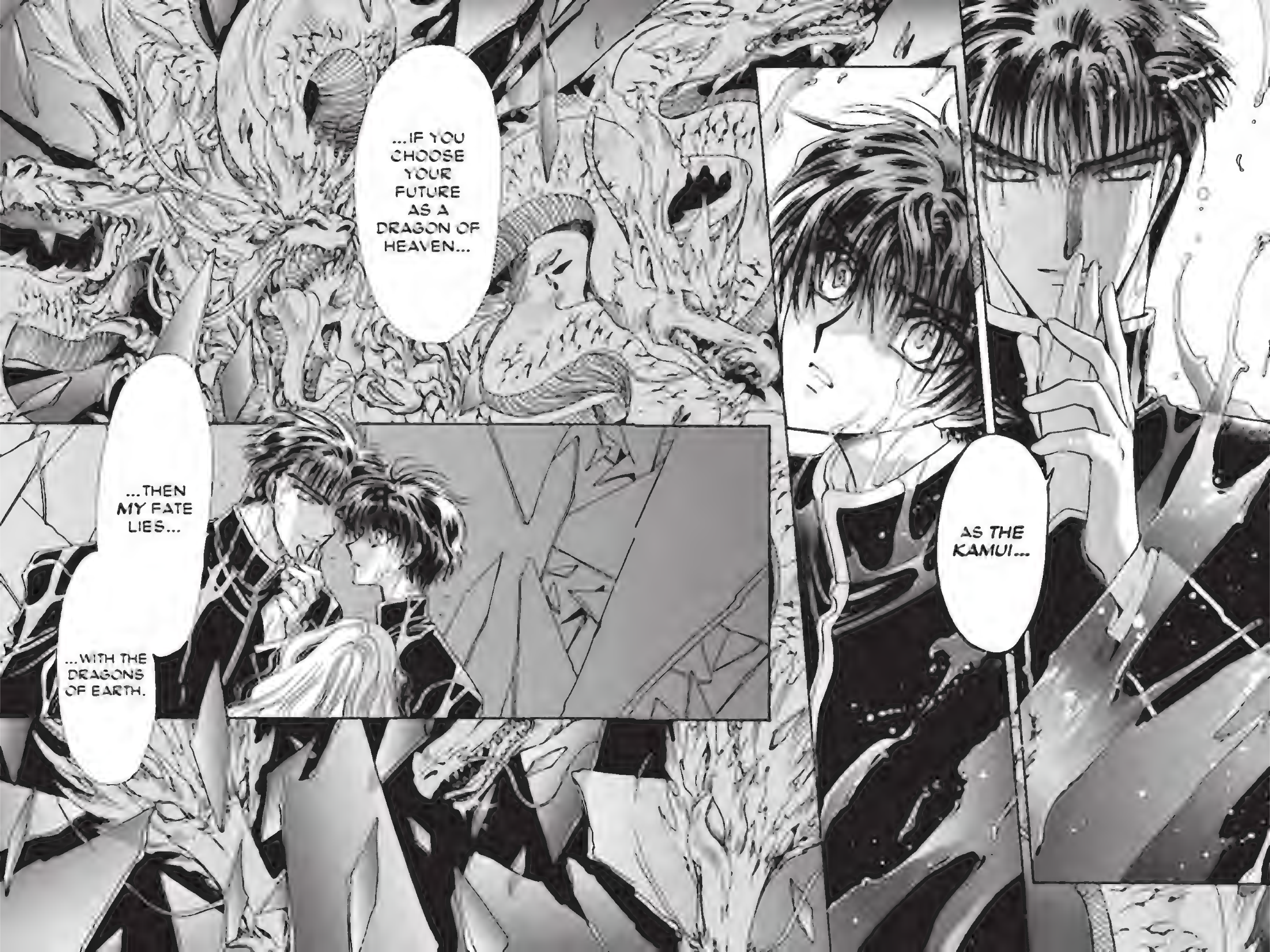

LOOK!
THE WATER'S ...
...SO PRETTY.
THE SKY'S ...
... PRETTY TOO!
AND THE AIR, AND THE WIND.
IT'S ALL SO BEAUTIFUL.

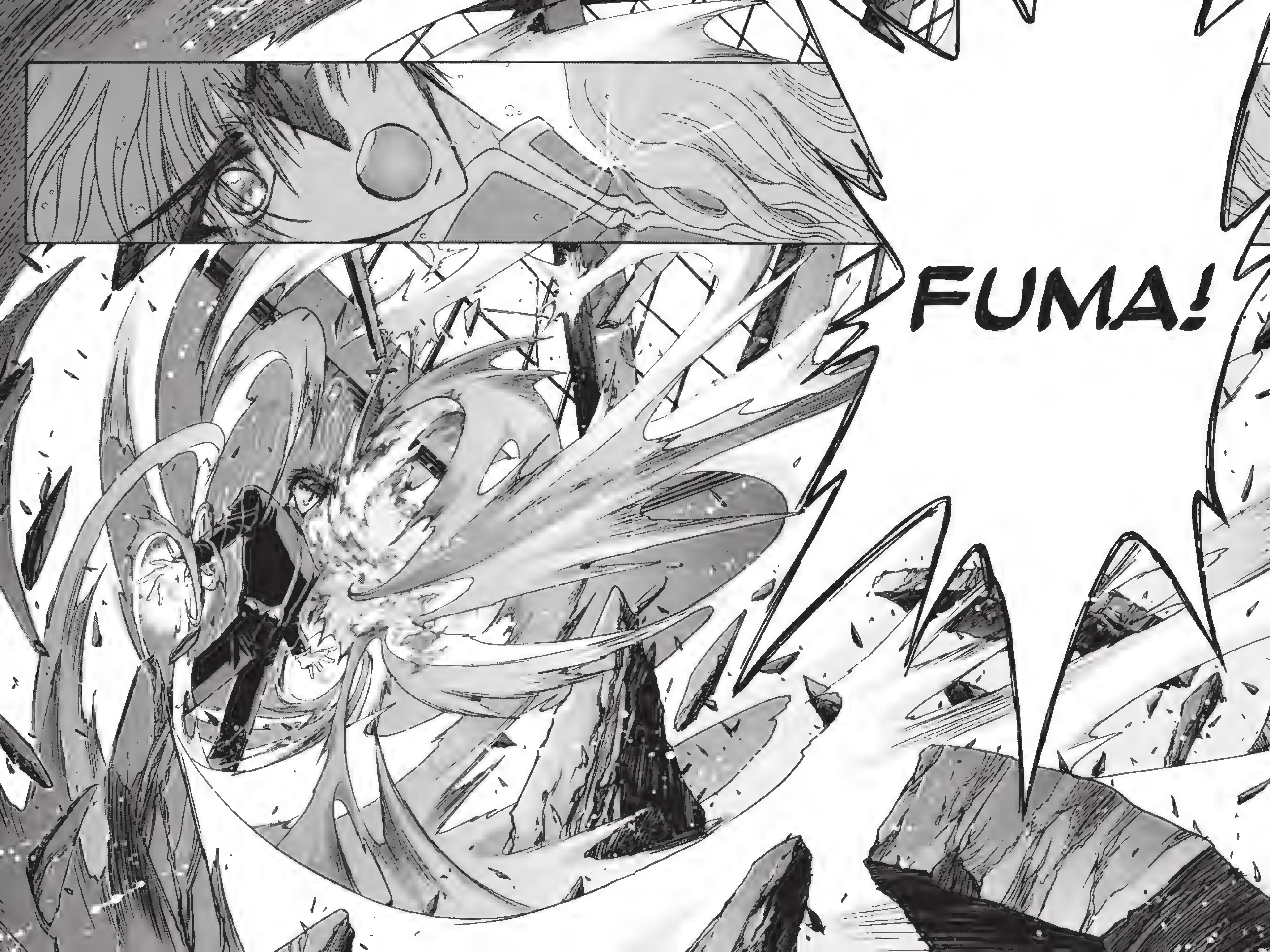

I...
I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO THE WORLD.
BUT ...
I LOVE THIS WORLD SO MUCH!
BECAUSE THIS IS WHERE KAMUI IS.

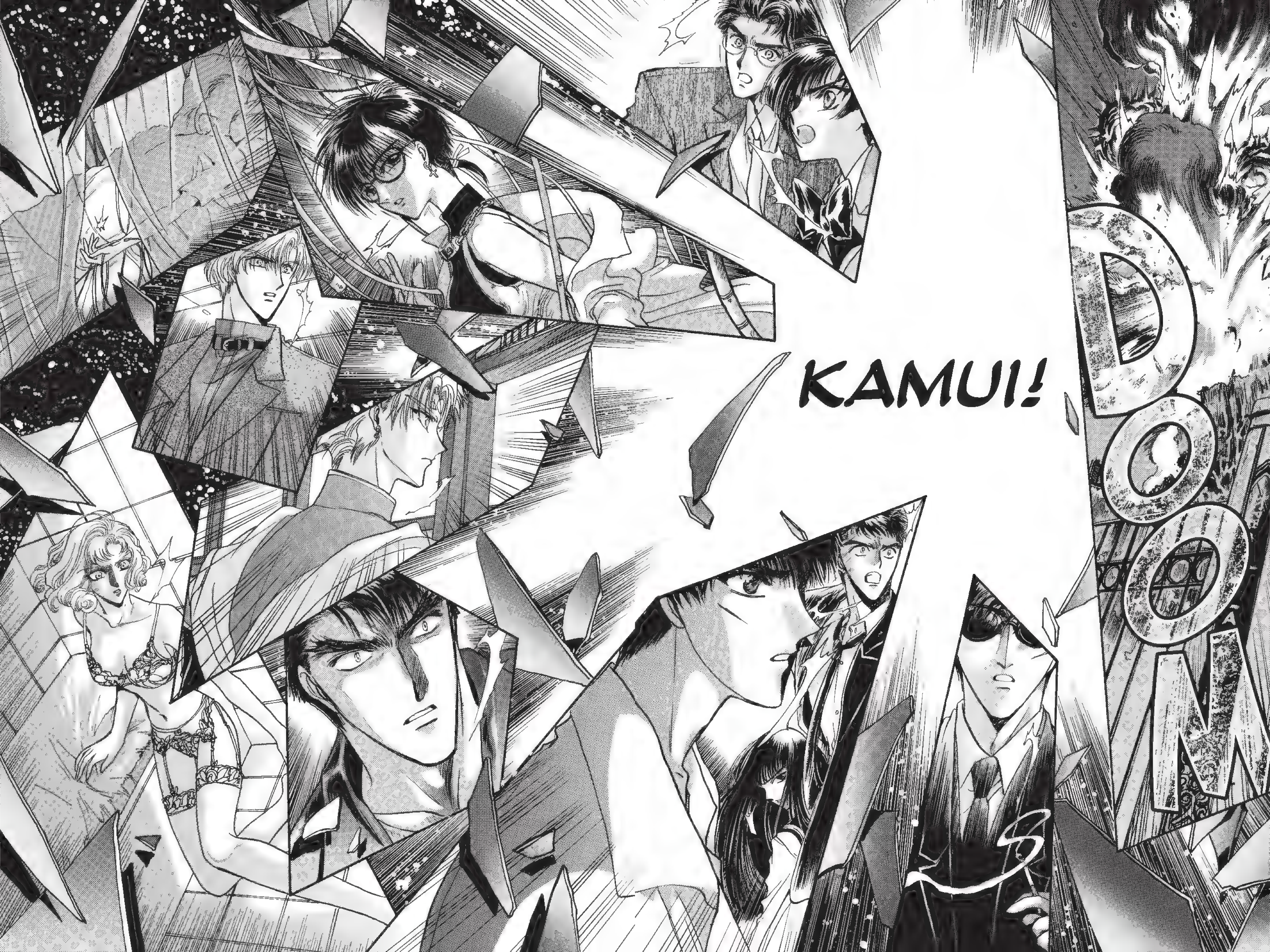

...WHAT I WANT, FUMA...
...IS FOR THE WORLD...
...TO BE A PLACE WHERE YOU AND KOTORI CAN BOTH BE SAFE AND HAPPY FOREVER.

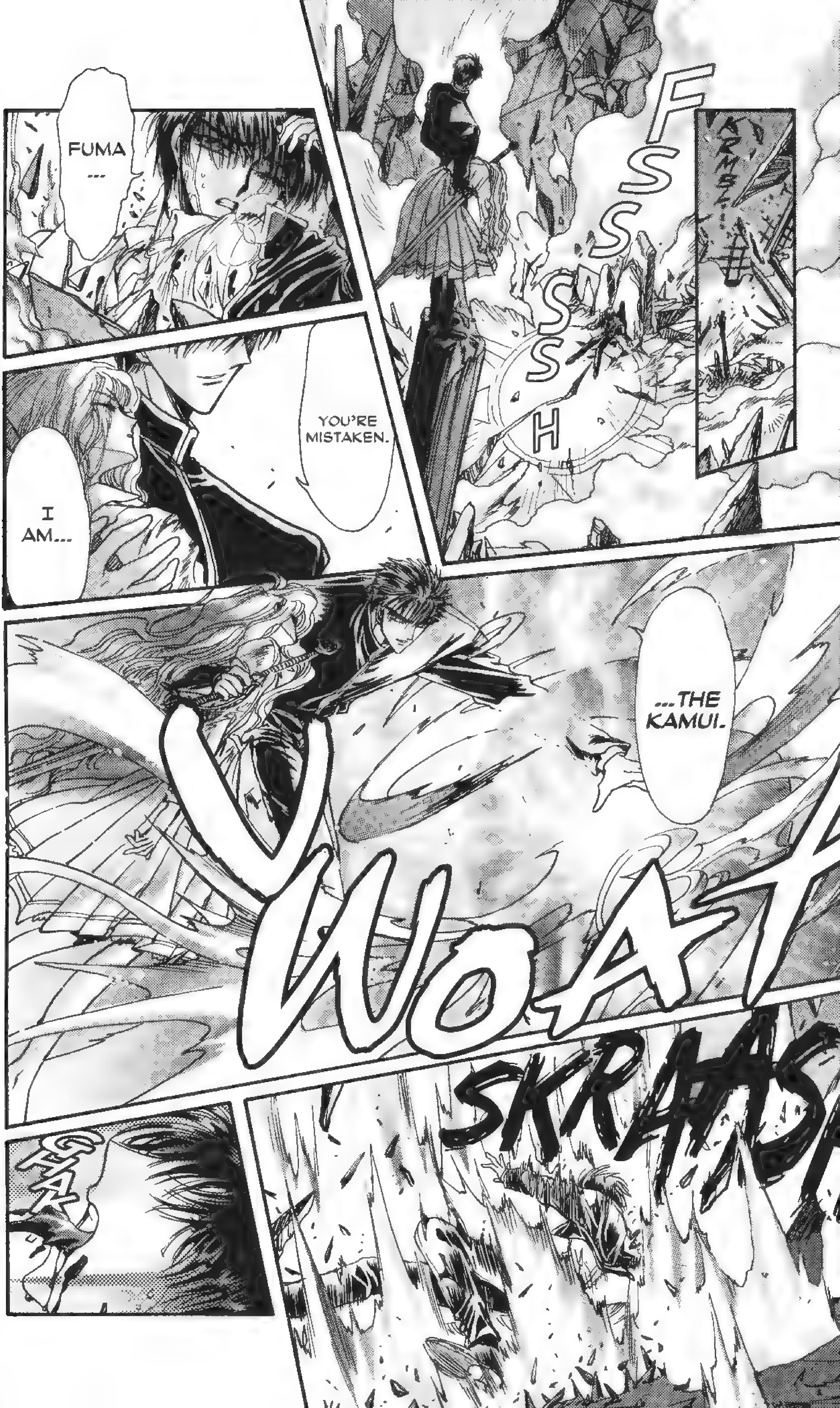

SPAASH
KIIIN

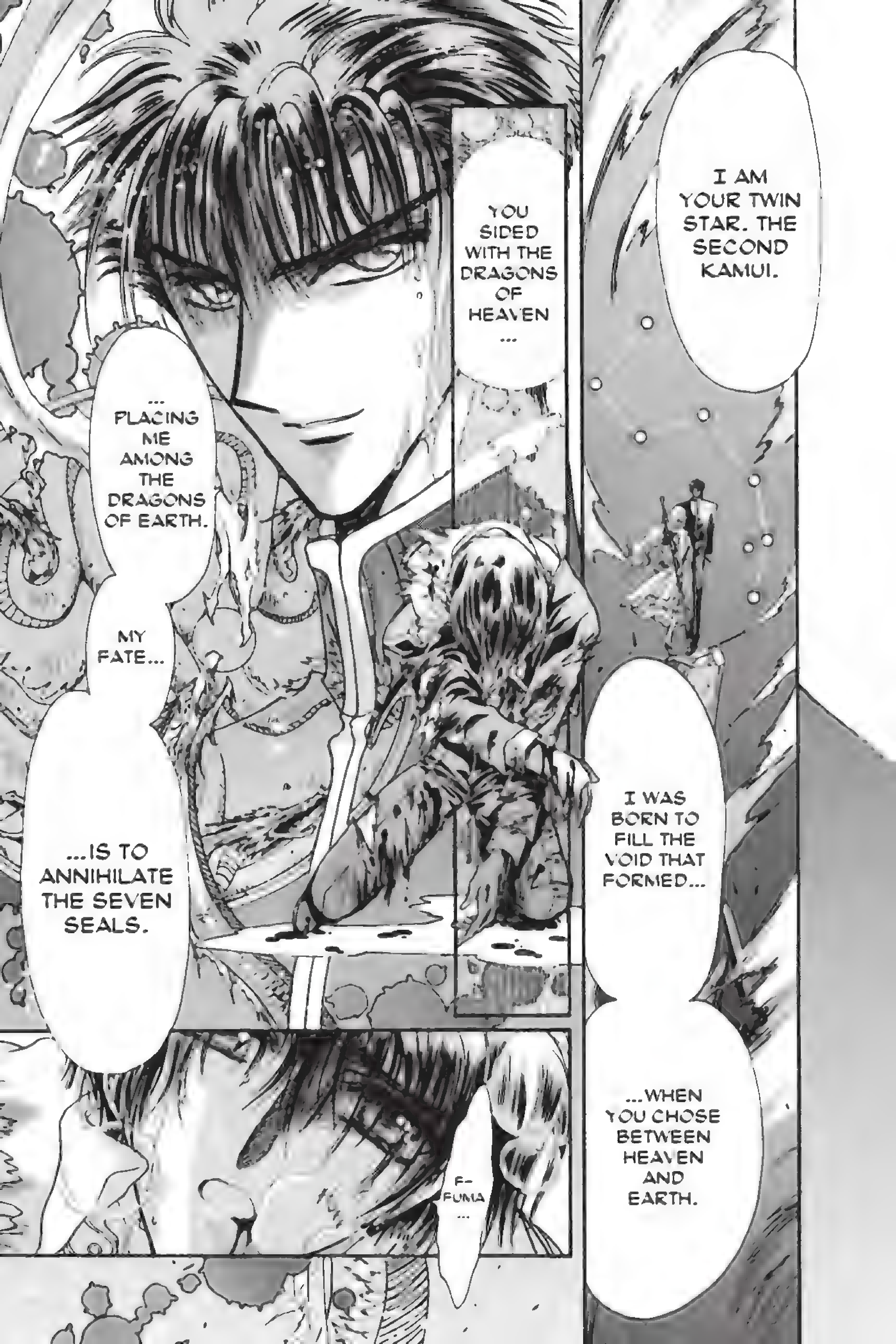

THEN YOUR DECISION HAS BEEN MADE.
F-FUMA ...?
YOU HAVE CHOSEN.
YOUR FUTURE LIES WITH THE SEVEN SEALS.
IIIIN

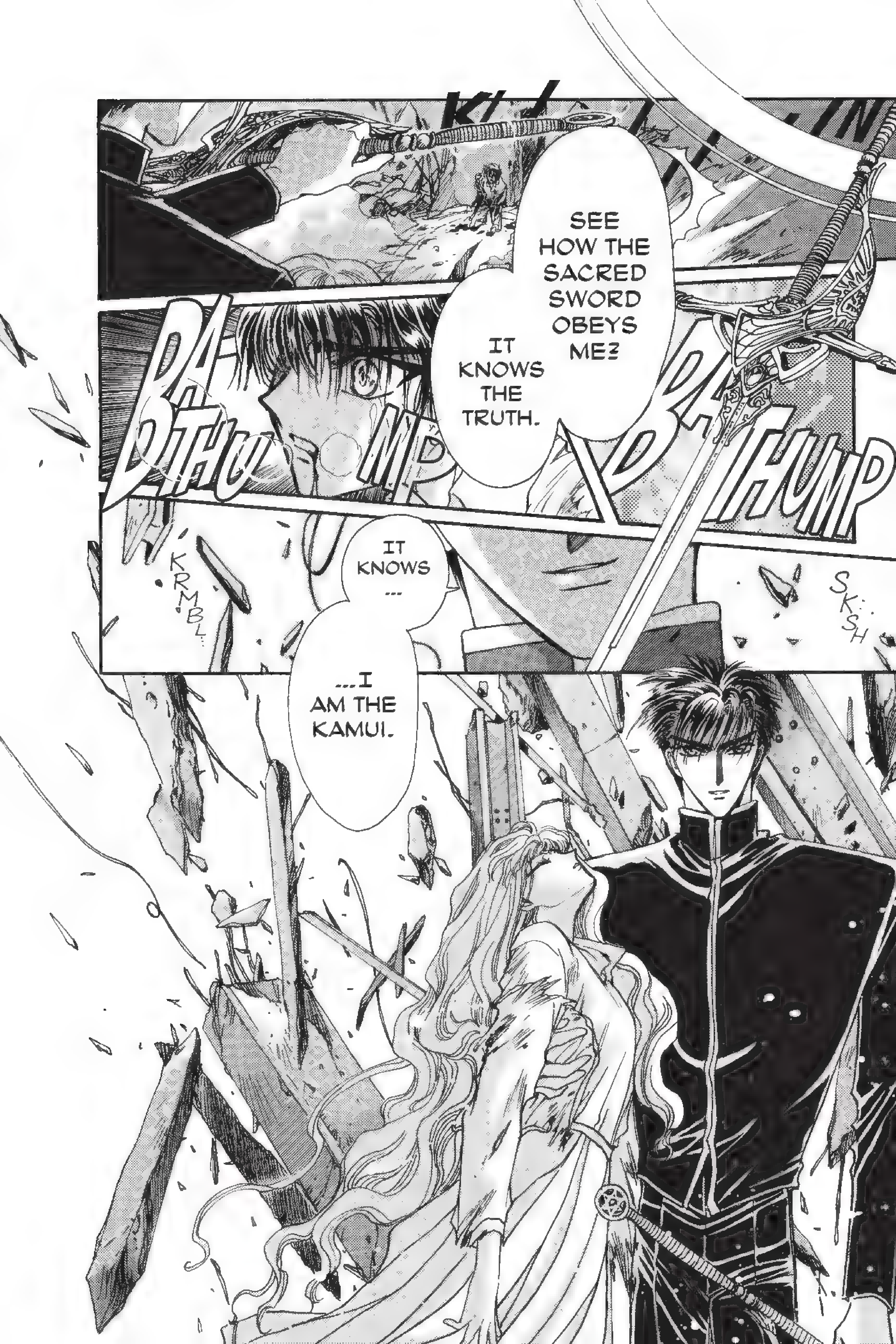

AS THE KAMUI...
...IF YOU CHOOSE YOUR FUTURE AS A DRAGON OF HEAVEN...
...THEN MY FATE LIES...
...WITH THE DRAGONS OF EARTH.

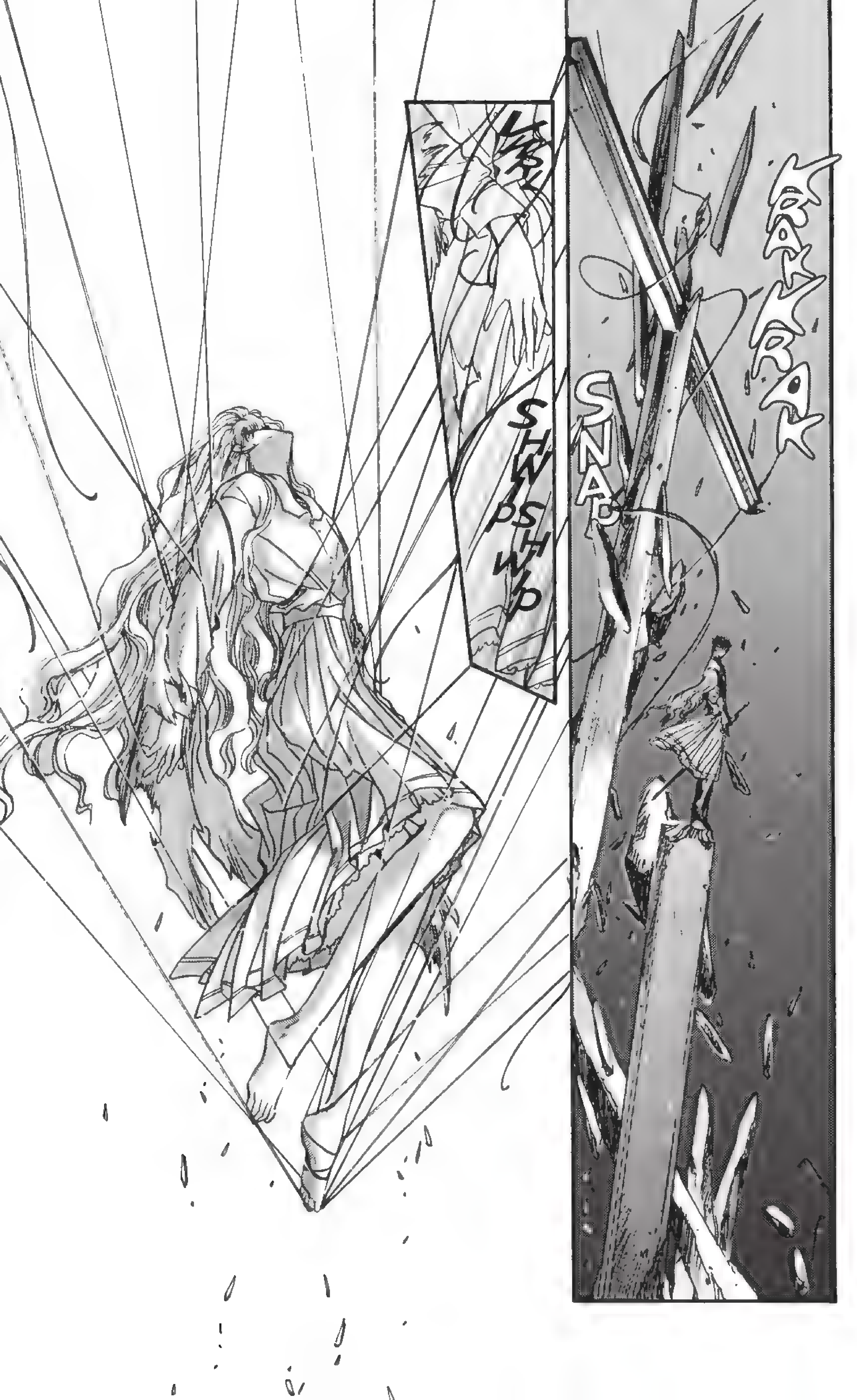

FUMA!

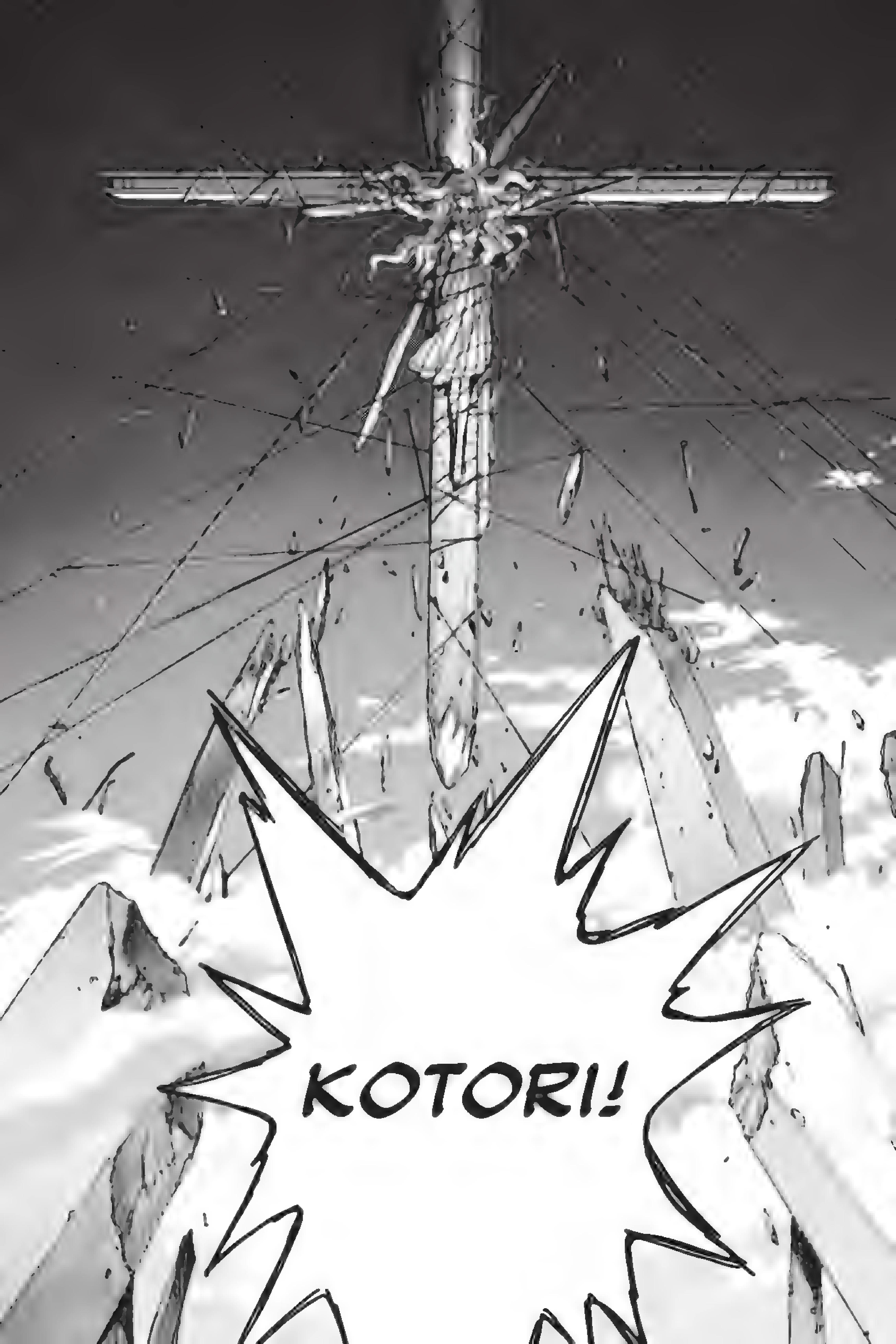

DOOM
KAMUI!

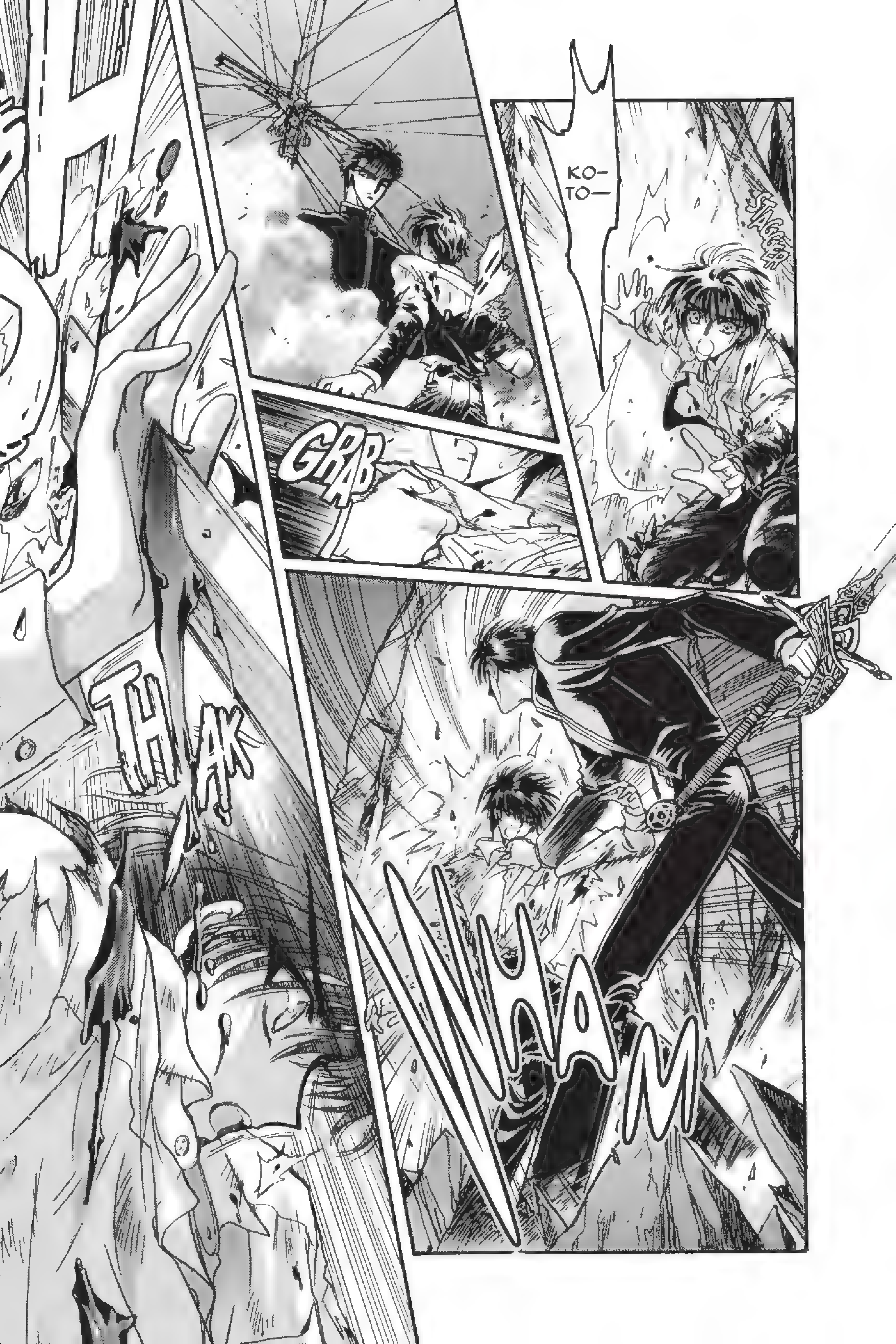

FSSSSH
KRMSH...
FUMA ...
YOU'RE MISTAKEN.
I AM...
...THE KAMUI.
WOA
SKRAAS
GHAK

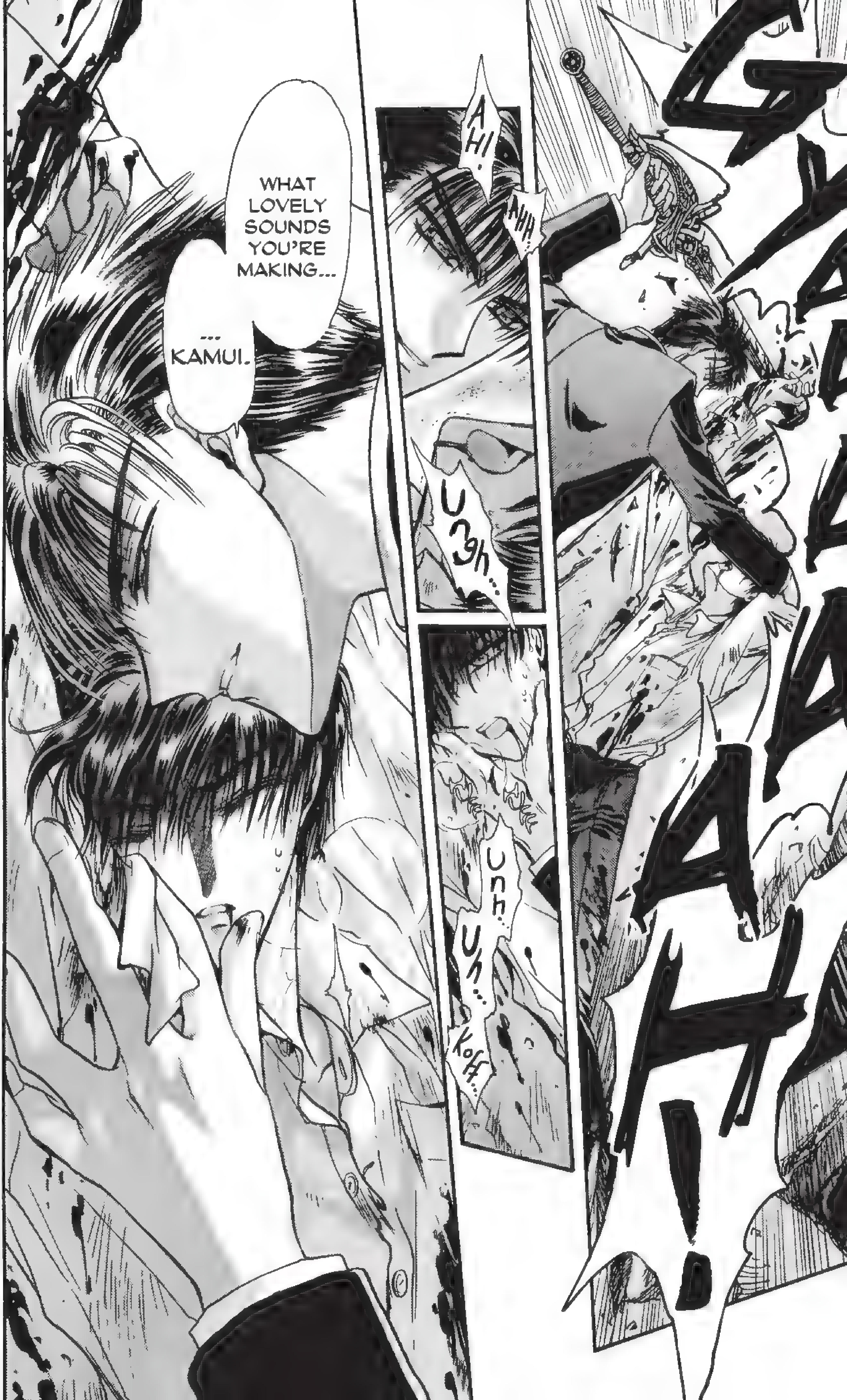

I AM YOUR TWIN STAR. THE SECOND KAMUI.
I WAS BORN TO FILL THE VOID THAT FORMED...
...WHEN YOU CHOSE BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH.
YOU SIDED WITH THE DRAGONS OF HEAVEN...
...PLACING ME AMONG THE DRAGONS OF EARTH.
MY FATE...
...IS TO ANNIHILATE THE SEVEN SEALS.
F-FUMA...


KI...IN
SEE HOW THE SACRED SWORD OBEYS ME?
IT KNOWS THE TRUTH.
BA DTHUMP
BA DTHUMP
IT KNOWS...
...I AM THE KAMUI.
KRMBL!
SKSH

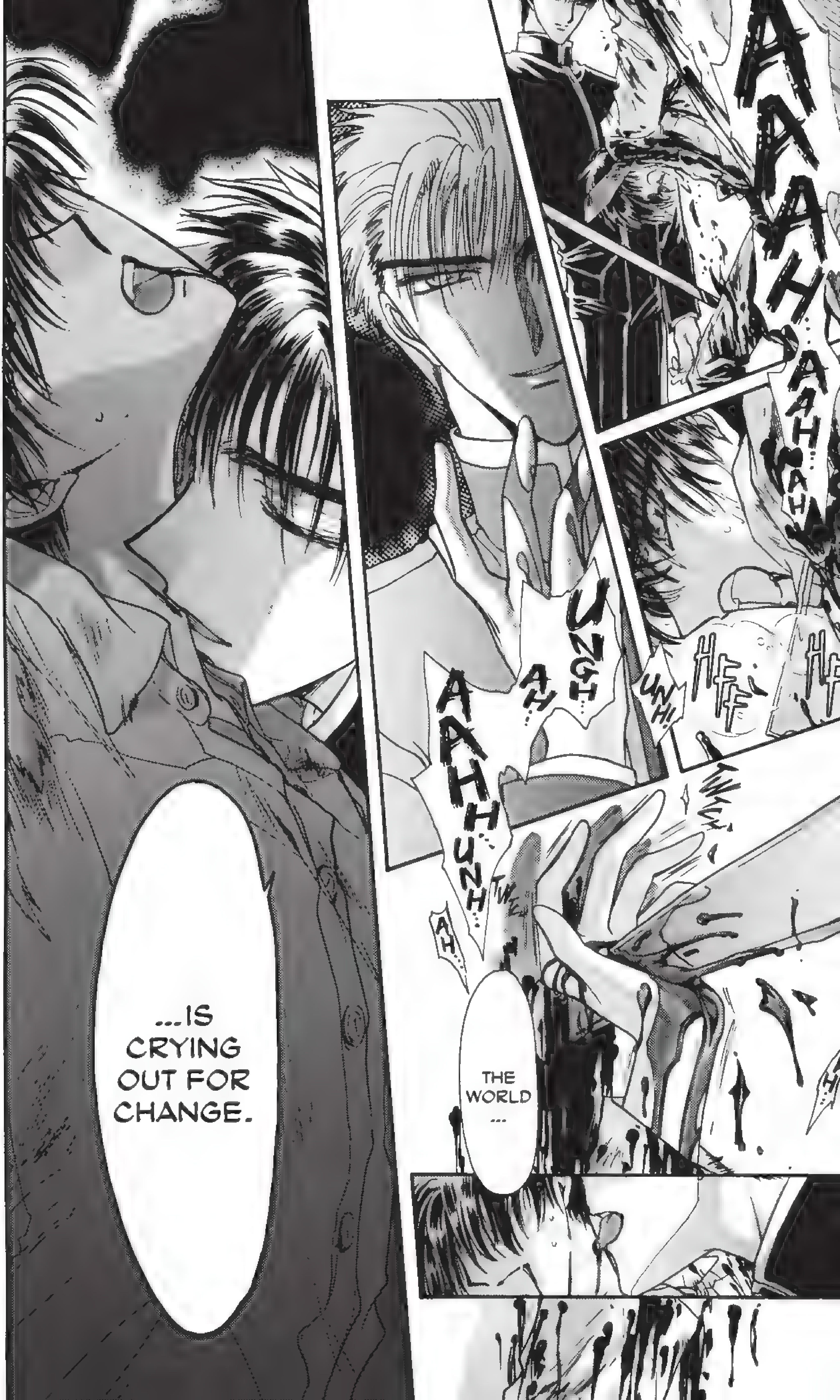

KRAKRAK
SNAP
VWSH
SHWIPSHWIP

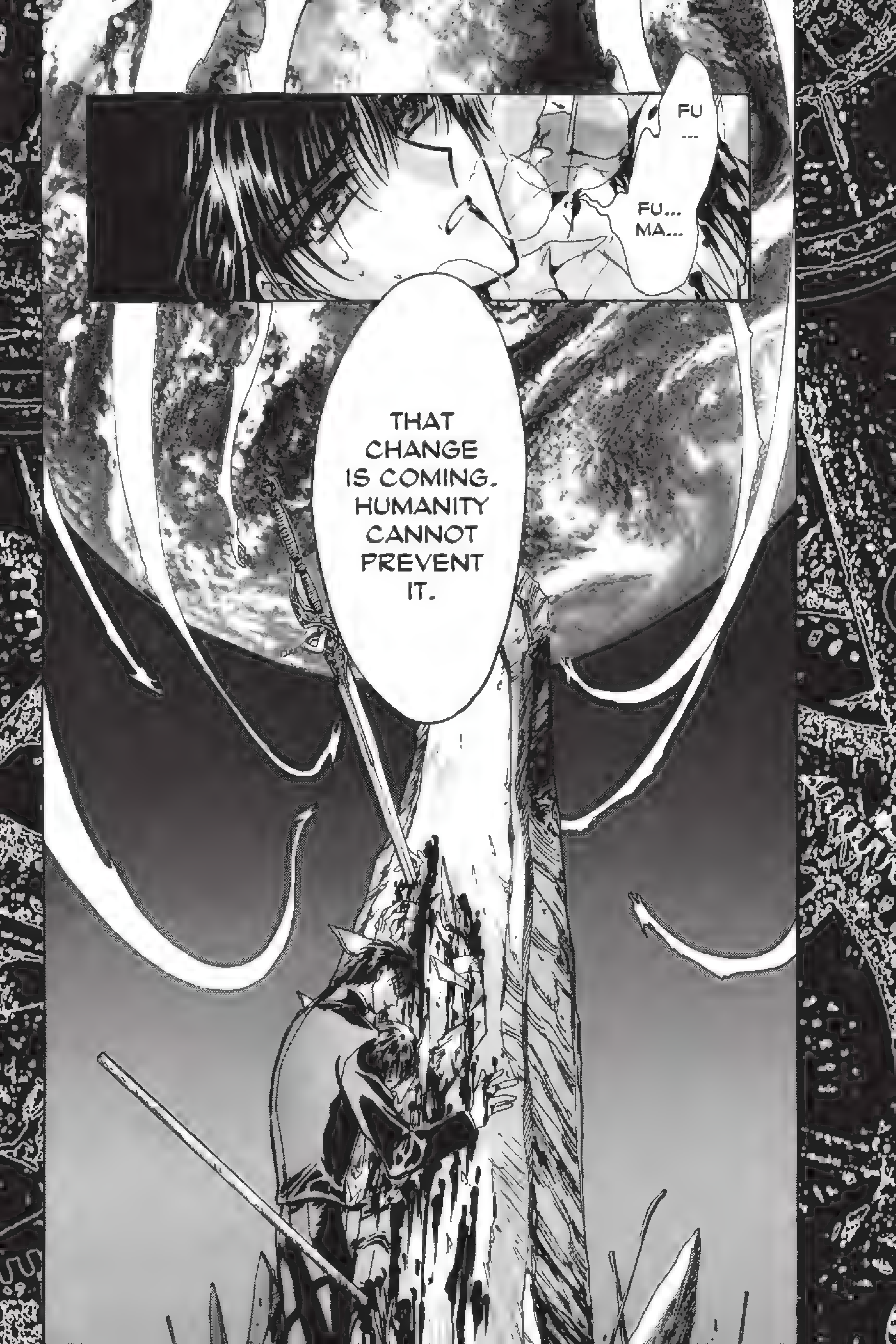

KOTORI!

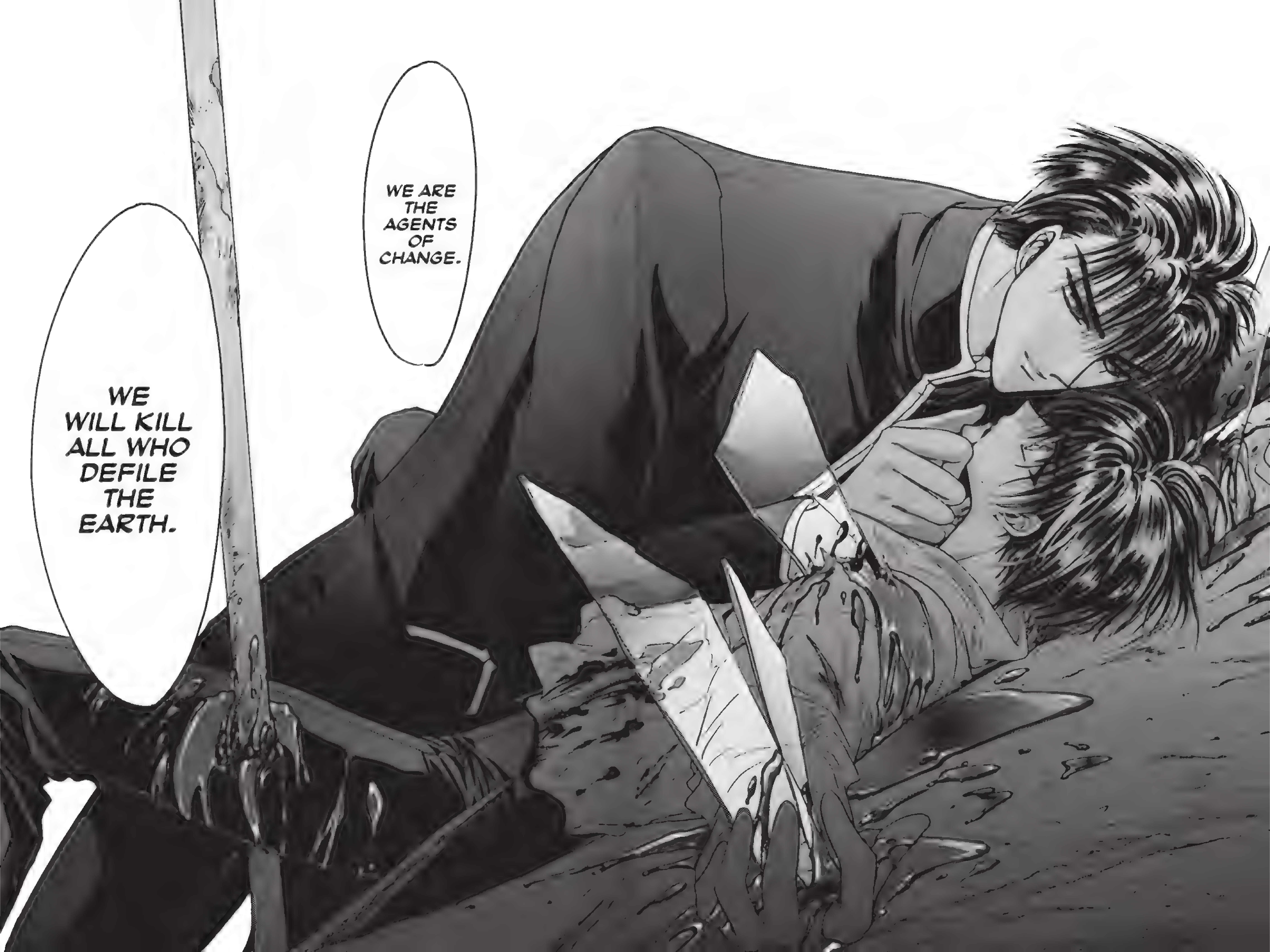

KO-
TO—
STAGGER
GRAB
THAK
WHAM

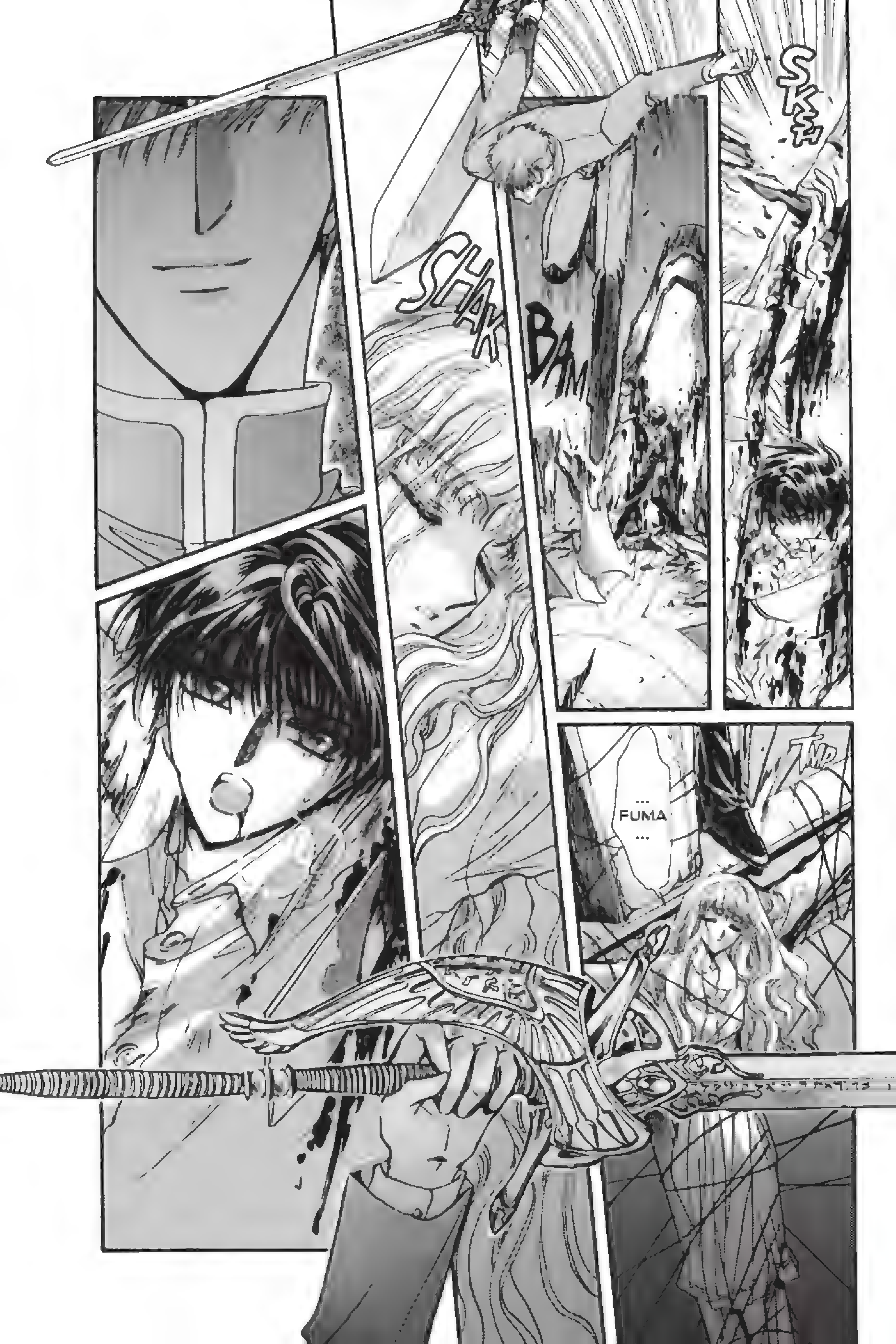

GYAAAAHH!
AH!
NHH
Ungh...
Unh...
Uh...
Koff...
WHAT LOVELY SOUNDS YOU'RE MAKING...
...KAMUI.

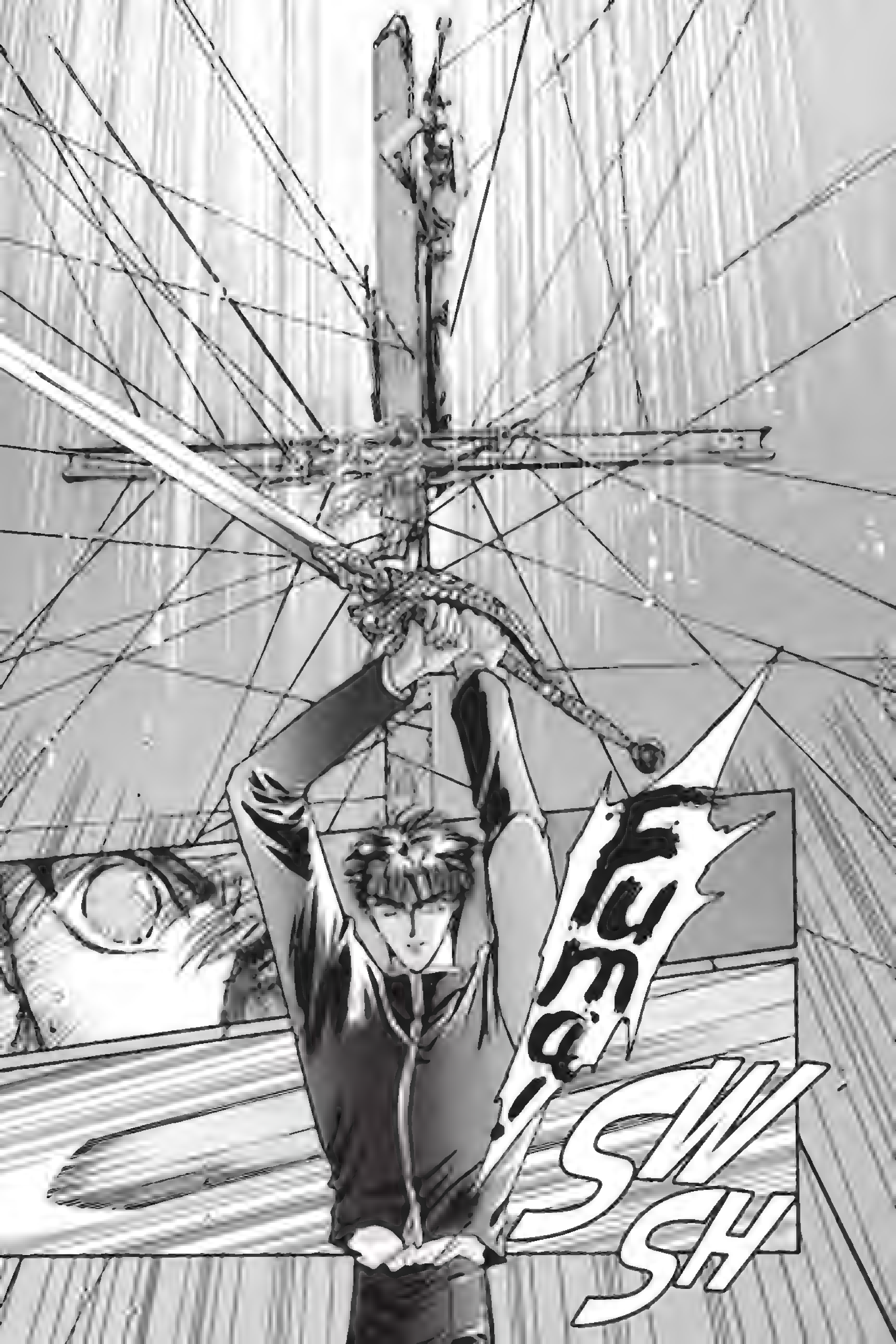
SHUCH
OK
AAAAAAAHH
THOK

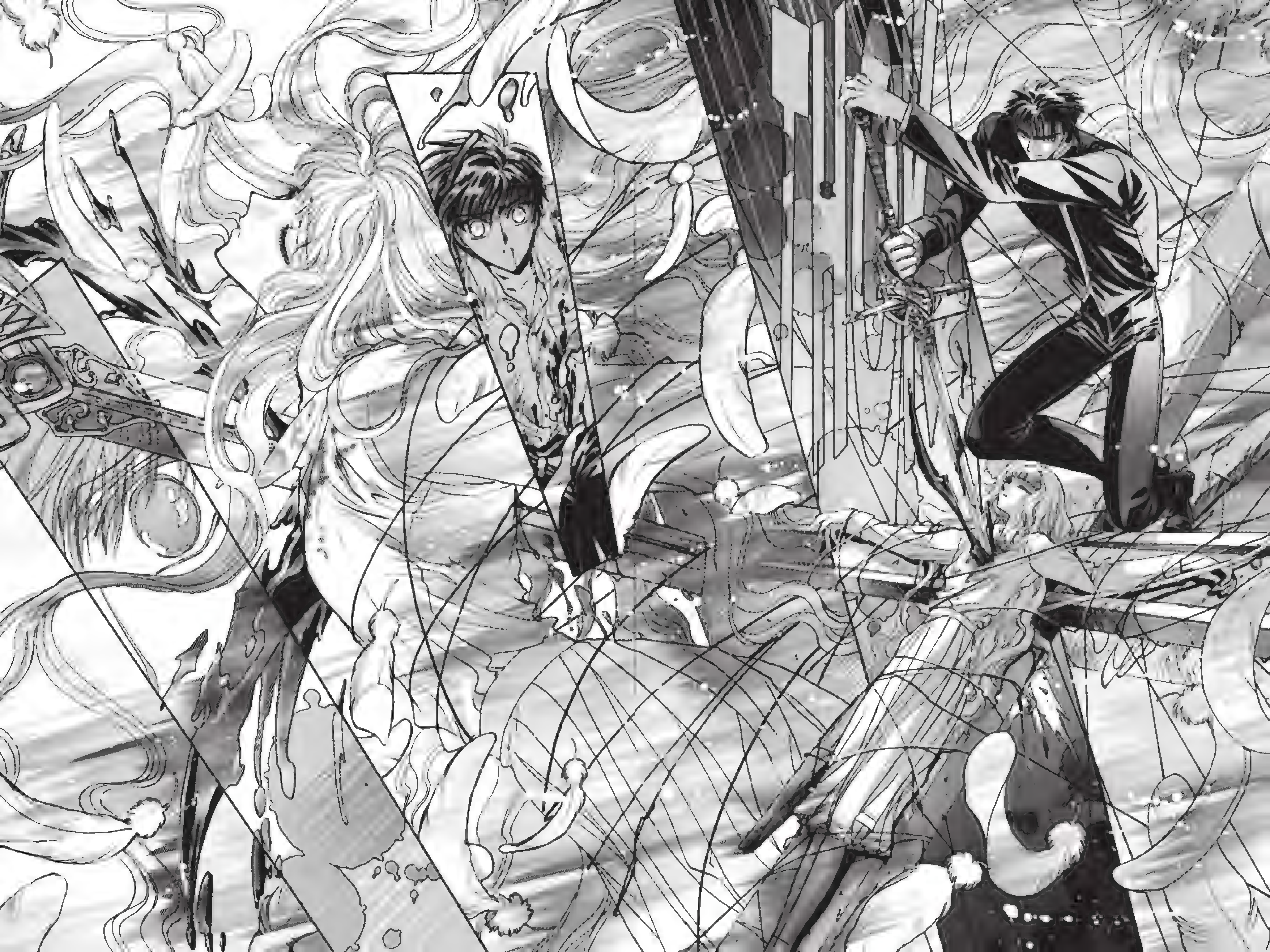

AAAH...
AAH...
AH...
UNGH...
AH...
AAHHH...
UNH!!
HEFF
HF
TWAK
UNH...
TWAK
AH...
THE WORLD ...
...IS CRYING OUT FOR CHANGE.

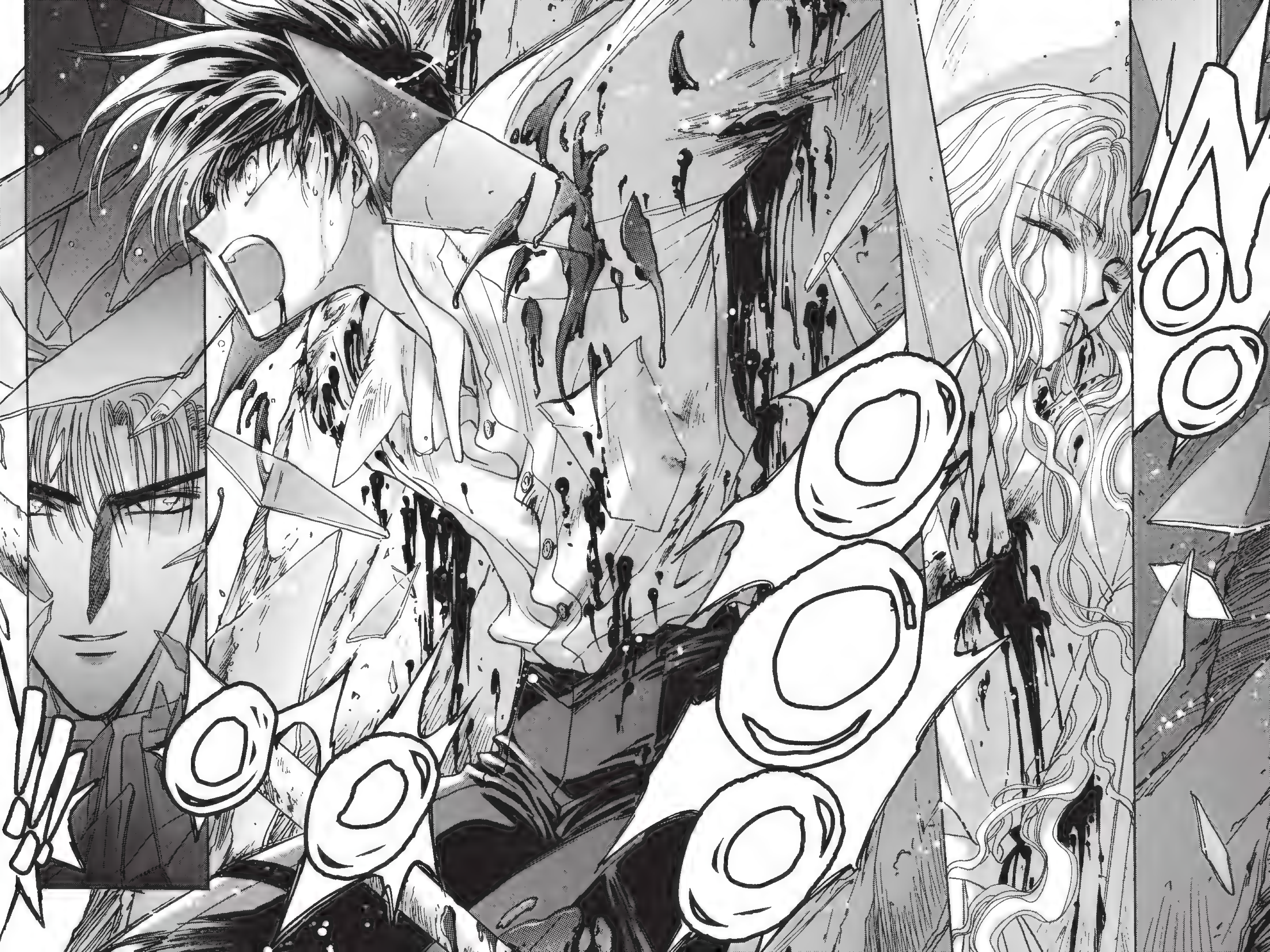

FU ... FU... MA...
THAT CHANGE IS COMING. HUMANITY CANNOT PREVENT IT.

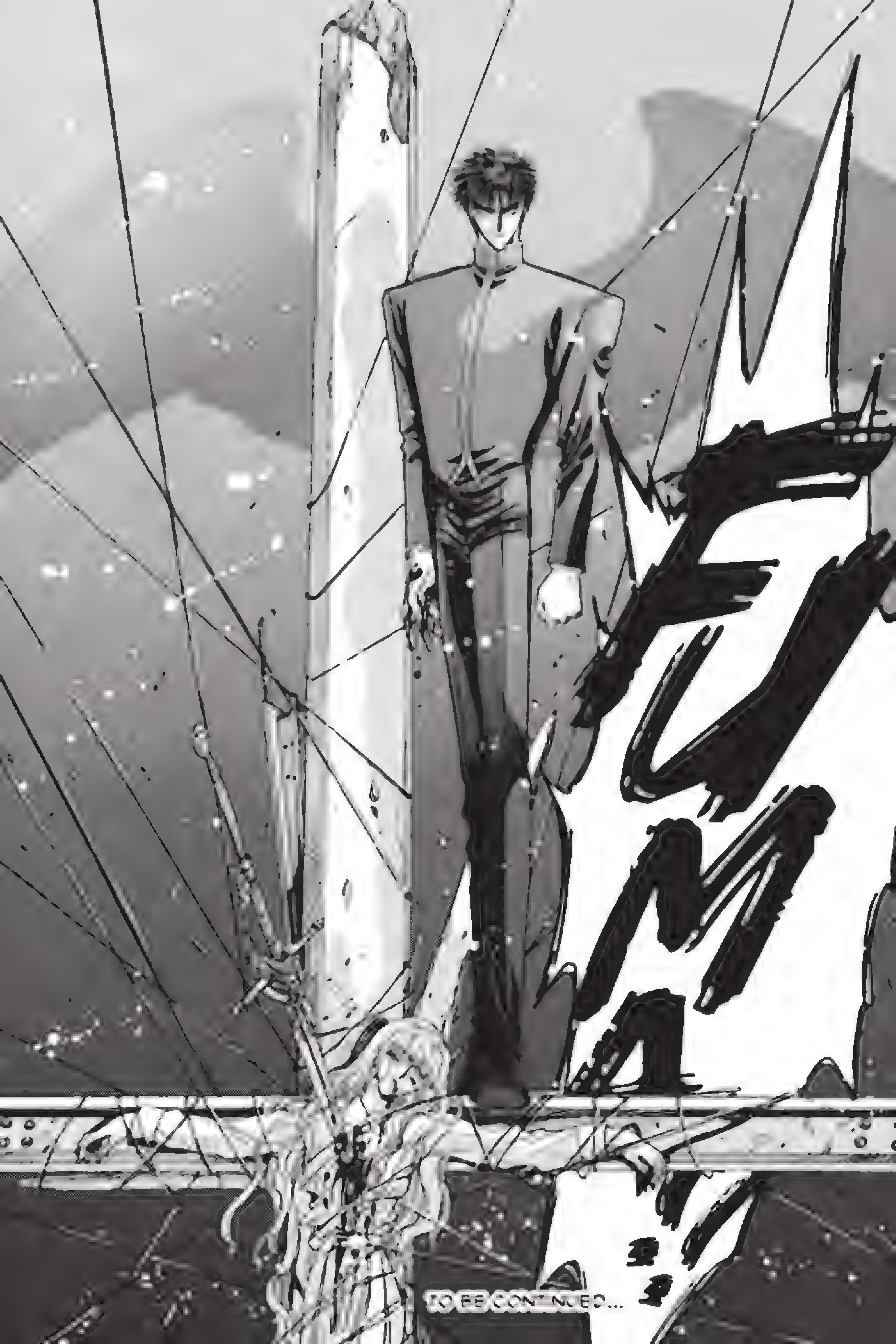

WE ARE THE AGENTS OF CHANGE.
WE WILL KILL ALL WHO DEFILE THE EARTH.


SKSH
BAM
SHAK
TMP
... FUMA ...


Fuma...
SWISH



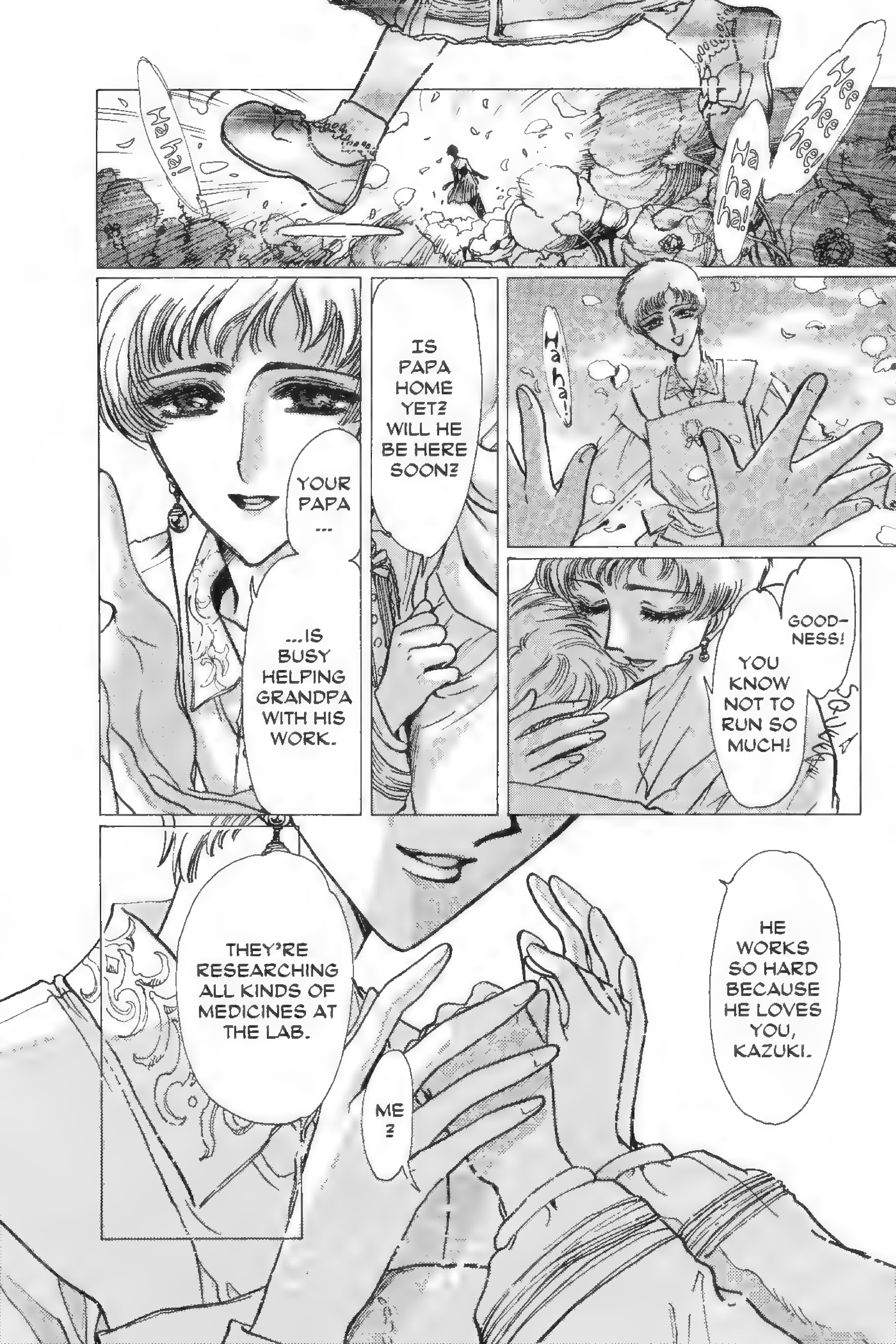

NOOOOOOOOO!!

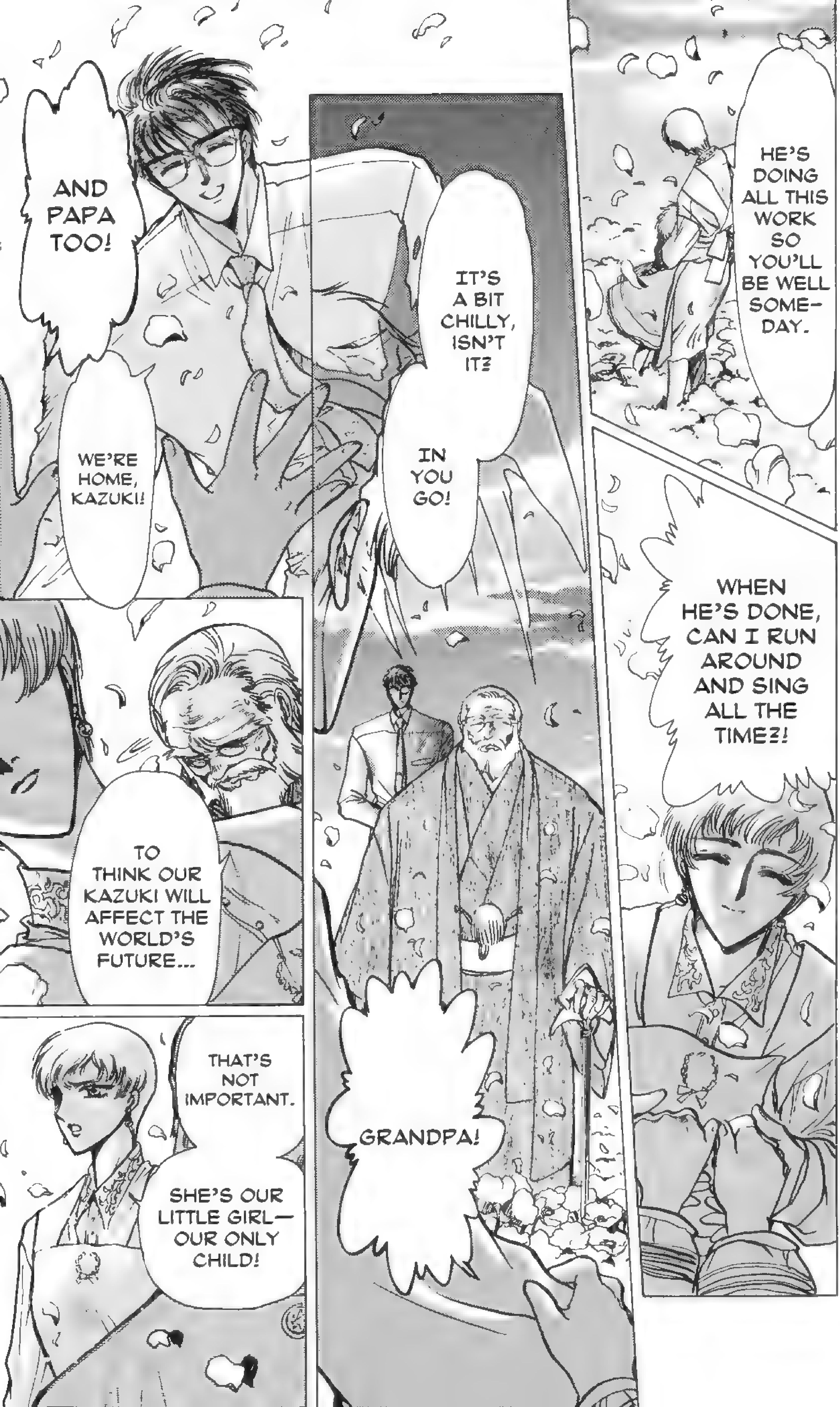


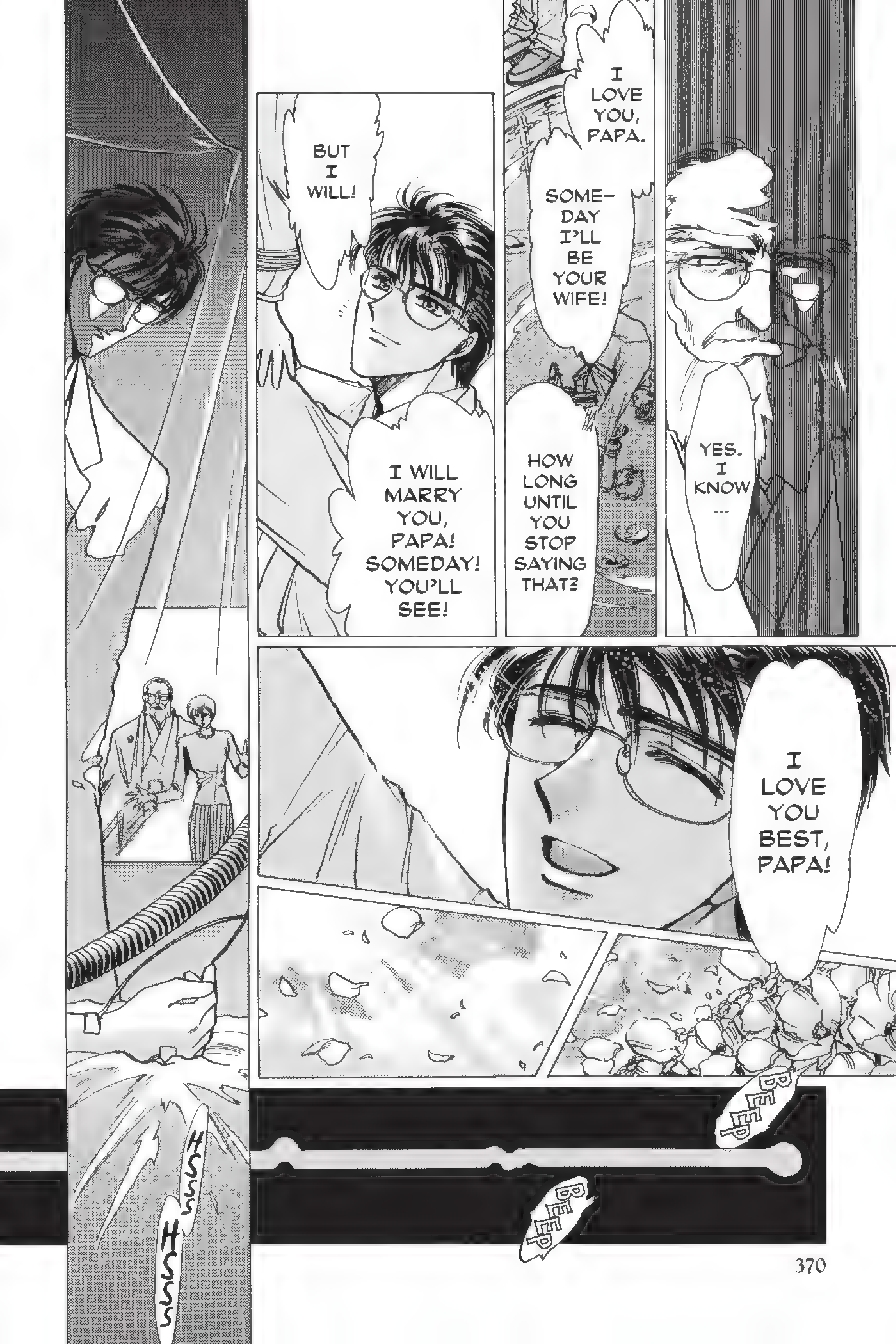
TO BE CONTINUED...

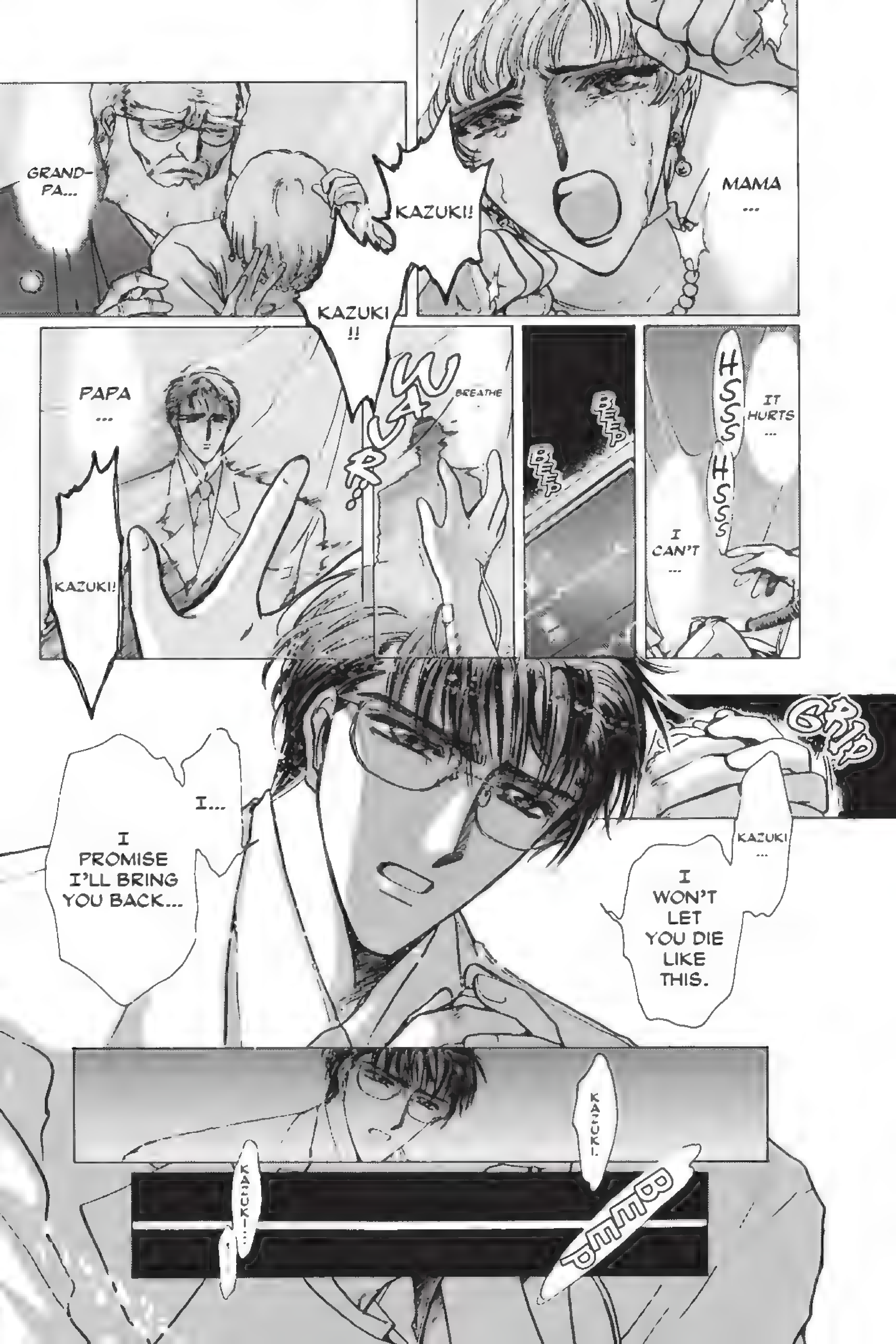
X

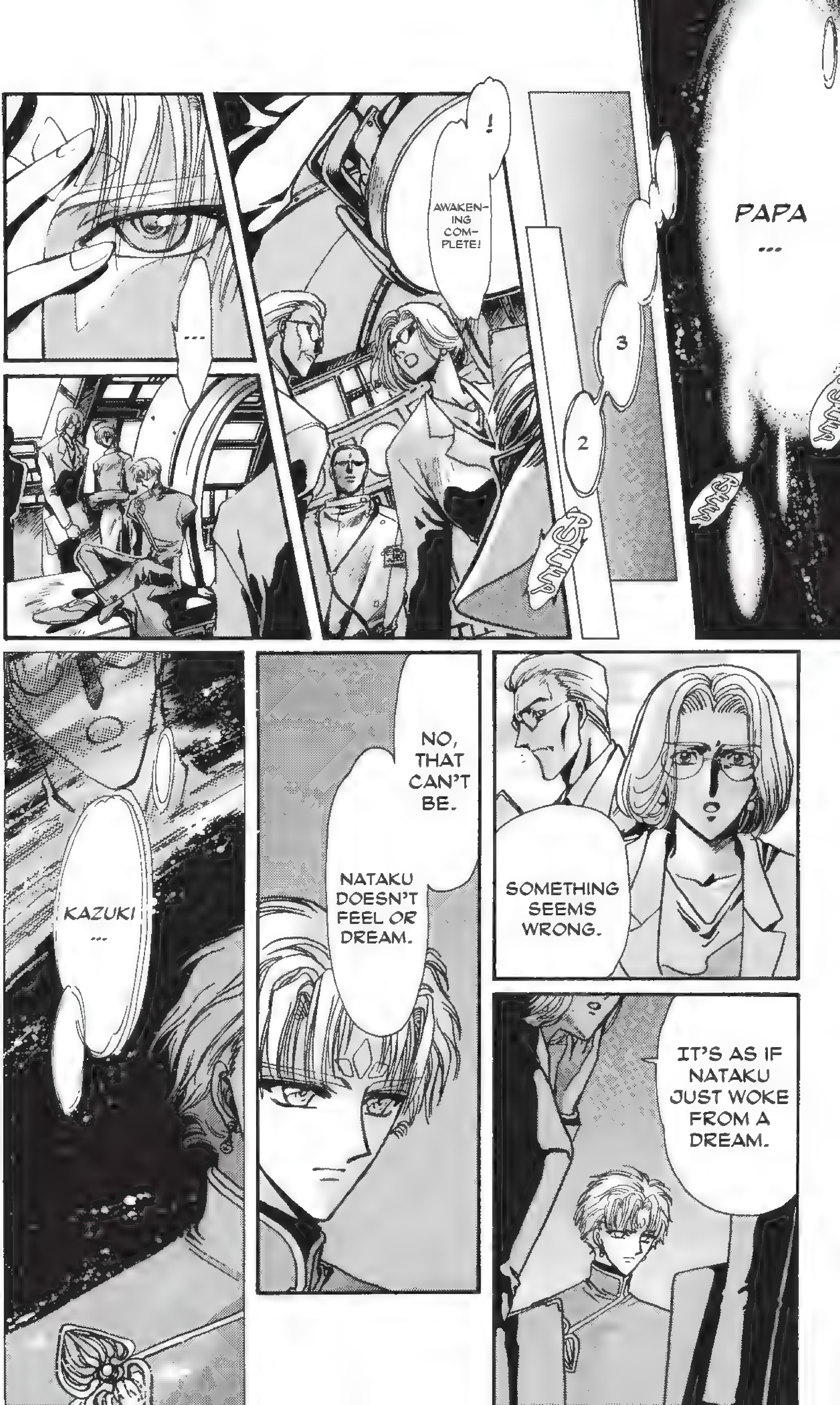
NATAKU

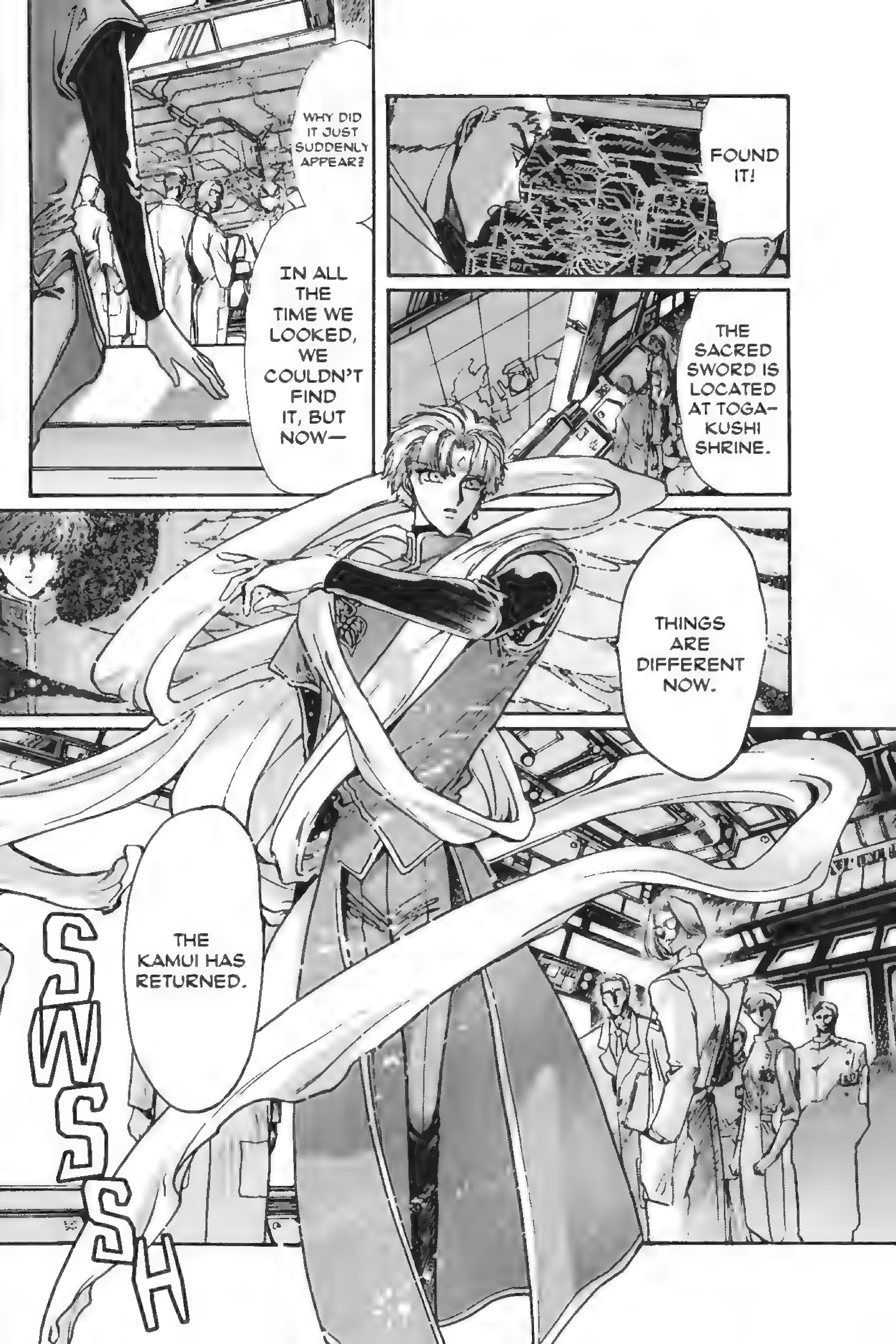

Hee hee hee!
Ha ha ha!
Ha ha!
Ha ha!
GOODNESS!
YOU KNOW NOT TO RUN SO MUCH!
IS PAPA HOME YET? WILL HE BE HERE SOON?
YOUR PAPA ...
...IS BUSY HELPING GRANDPA WITH HIS WORK.
THEY'RE RESEARCHING ALL KINDS OF MEDICINES AT THE LAB.
HE WORKS SO HARD BECAUSE HE LOVES YOU, KAZUKI.
ME?

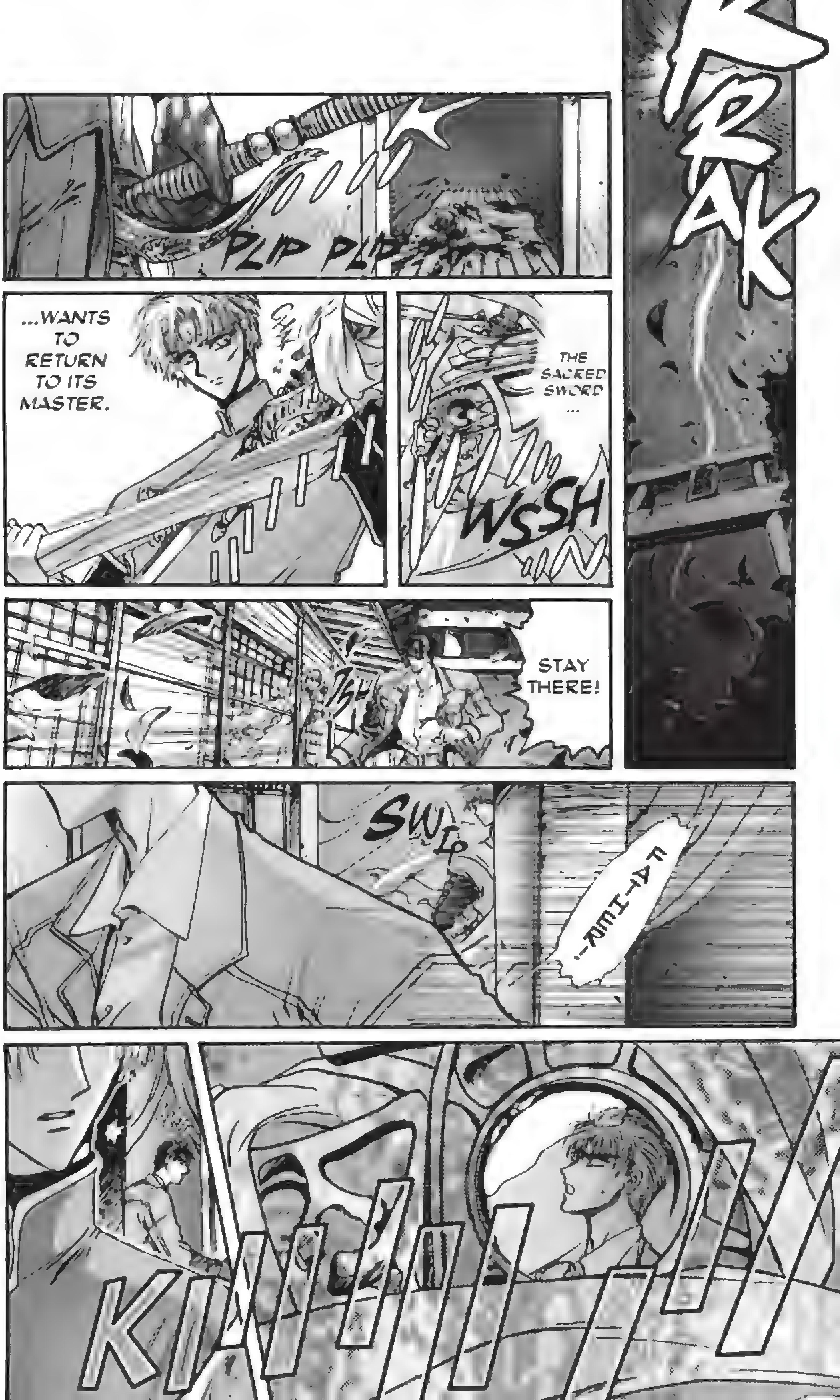

HE'S DOING ALL THIS WORK SO YOU'LL BE WELL SOMEDAY.
WHEN HE'S DONE, CAN I RUN AROUND AND SING ALL THE TIME?!
IT'S A BIT CHILLY, ISN'T IT?
IN YOU GO!
GRANDPA!
WE'RE HOME, KAZUKI!
AND PAPA TOO!
TO THINK OUR KAZUKI WILL AFFECT THE WORLD'S FUTURE...
THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT.
SHE'S OUR LITTLE GIRL—OUR ONLY CHILD!

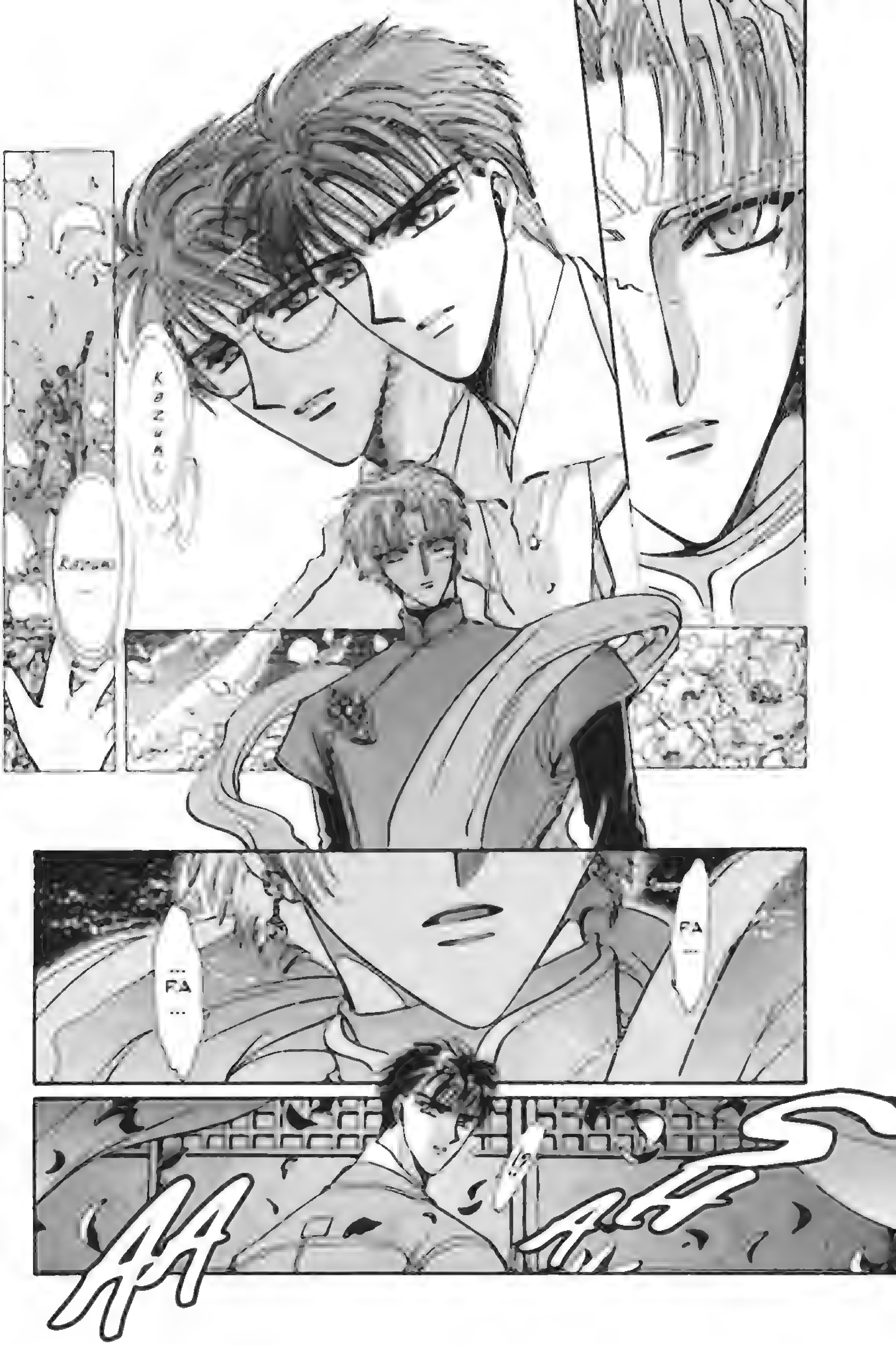

I LOVE YOU, PAPA.
SOMEDAY I'LL BE YOUR WIFE!
YES. I KNOW...
HOW LONG UNTIL YOU STOP SAYING THAT?
BUT I WILL!
I WILL MARRY YOU, PAPA! SOMEDAY! YOU'LL SEE!
I LOVE YOU BEST, PAPA!
BEEP
BEEP
HSSS
HSSS

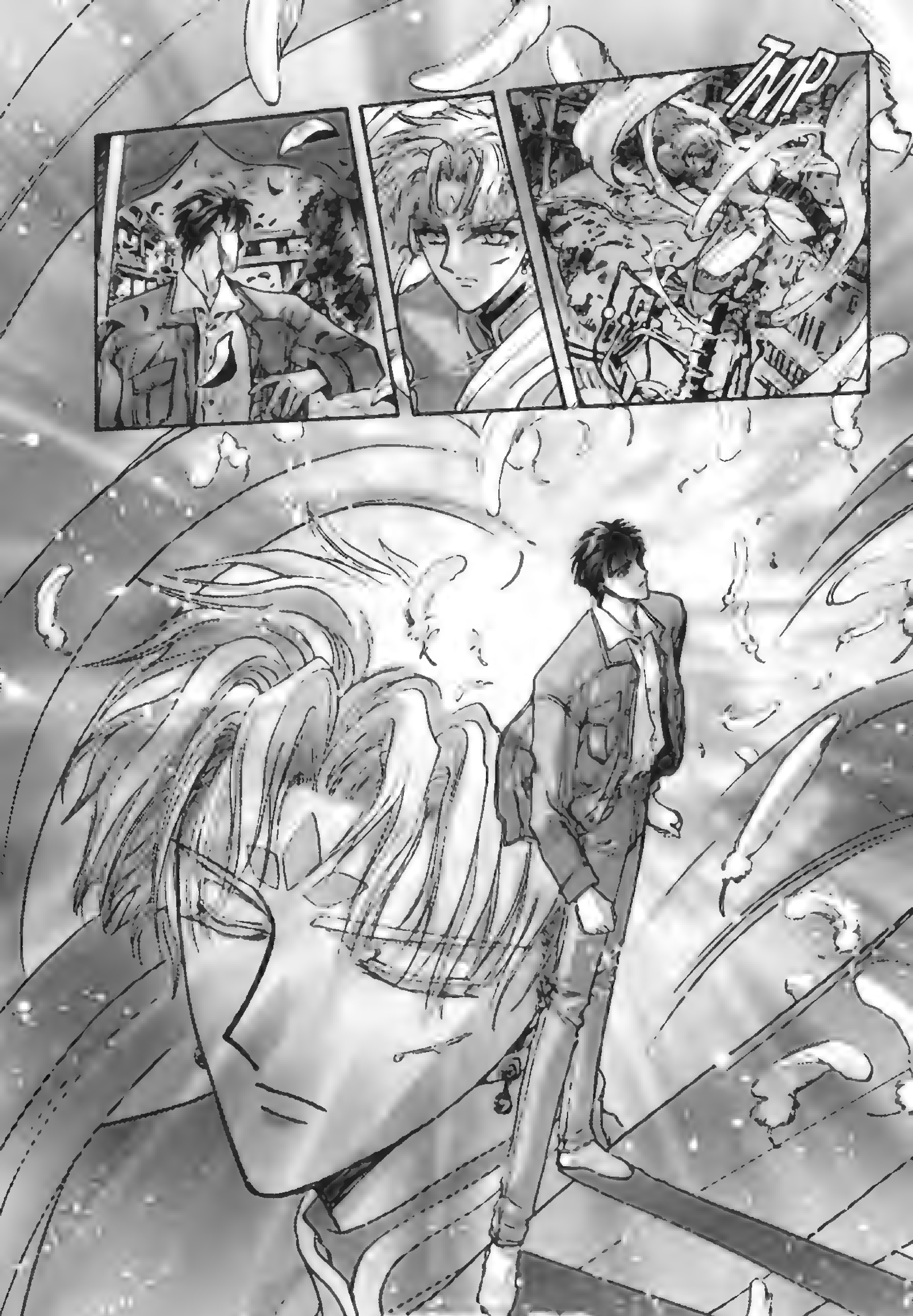

MAMA ...
KAZUKI!!
GRAND-PA...
IT HURTS ...
HSSS HSSS
I CAN'T ...
BEEP BEEP
BREATHE
WUAR!
KAZUKI !!
PAPA ...
KAZUKI!
GRIP
KAZUKI ...
I WON'T LET YOU DIE LIKE THIS.
I...
I PROMISE I'LL BRING YOU BACK...
KAZUKI.
KAZUKI...
BEEEP


PAPA
...
3
2
!
AWAKENING COMPLETE!
...
SOMETHING SEEMS WRONG.
IT'S AS IF NATAKU JUST WOKE FROM A DREAM.
NO, THAT CAN'T BE.
NATAKU DOESN'T FEEL OR DREAM.
KAZUKI
...


FOUND IT!
WHY DID IT JUST SUDDENLY APPEAR?
THE SACRED SWORD IS LOCATED AT TOGA-KUSHI SHRINE.
IN ALL THE TIME WE LOOKED, WE COULDN'T FIND IT, BUT NOW—
THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW.
THE KAMUI HAS RETURNED.
SWSSH


KRAK
PLIP PLIP
THE SACRED SWORD ...
WSSH
...WANTS TO RETURN TO ITS MASTER.
STAY THERE!
SWIP
TA-IMM-!
KIIIIIN


Kazuki
Kazumi —
FA …
… FA …
AAAHS



NATAKU—END

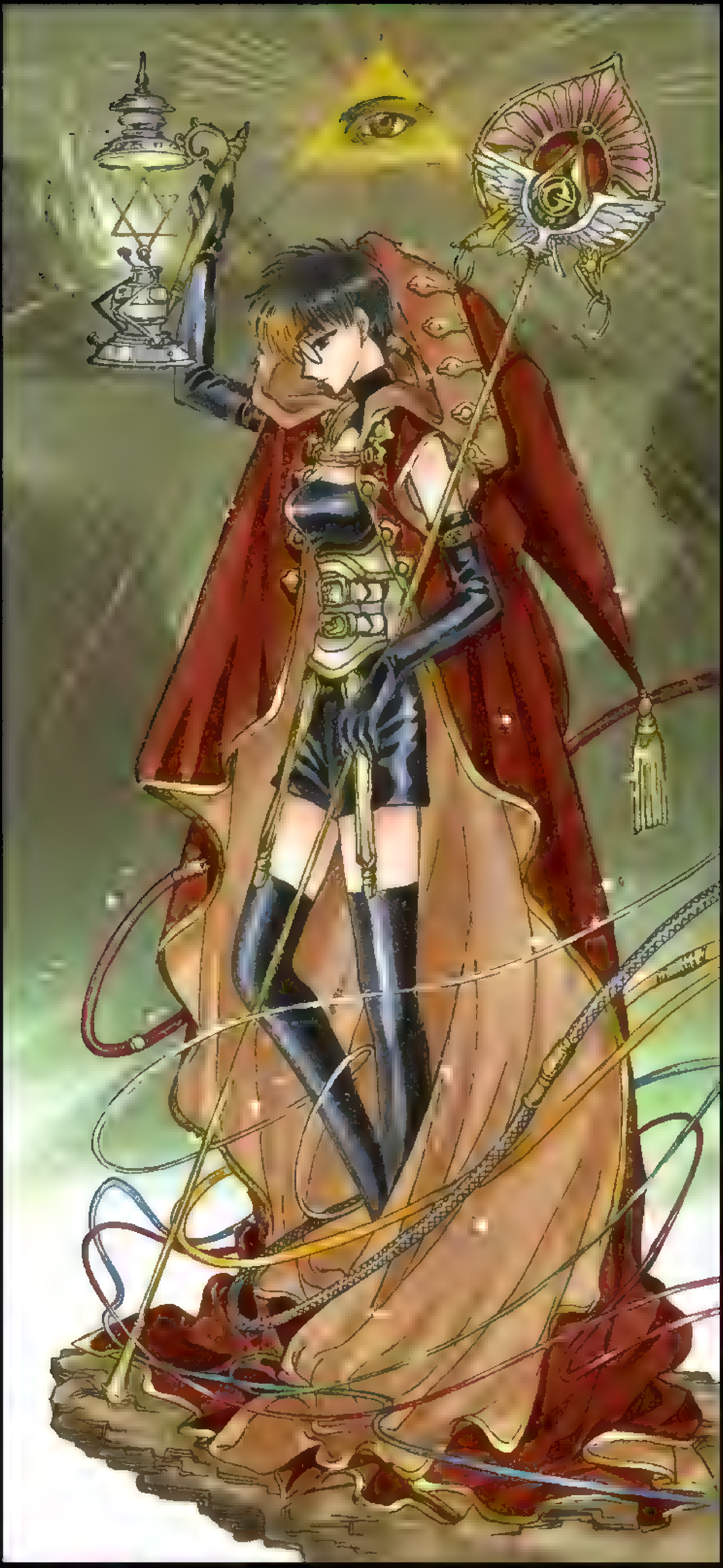
X

VOLUME 3, PART 3

KAMUI

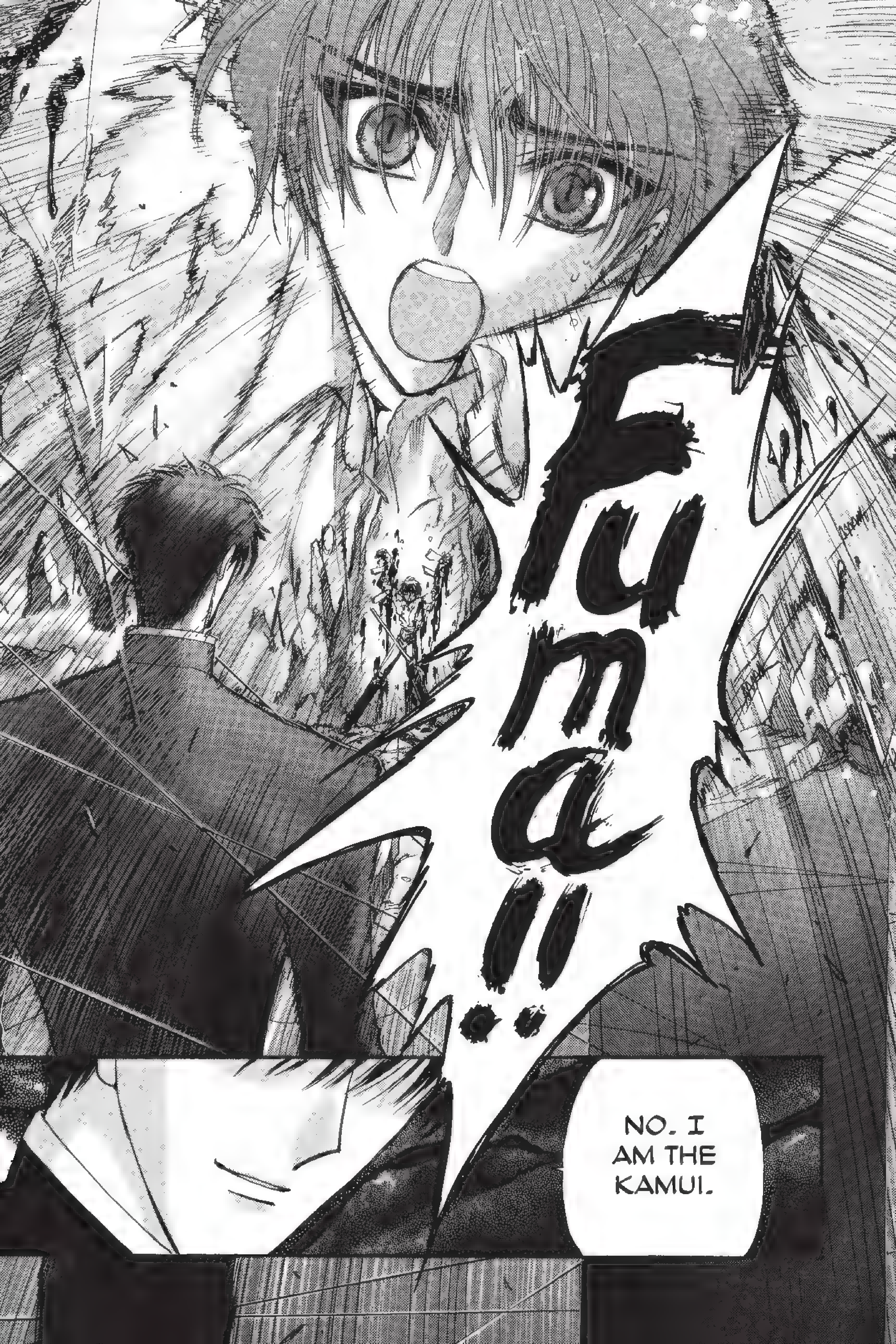
666
SEVEN AND
BEAST

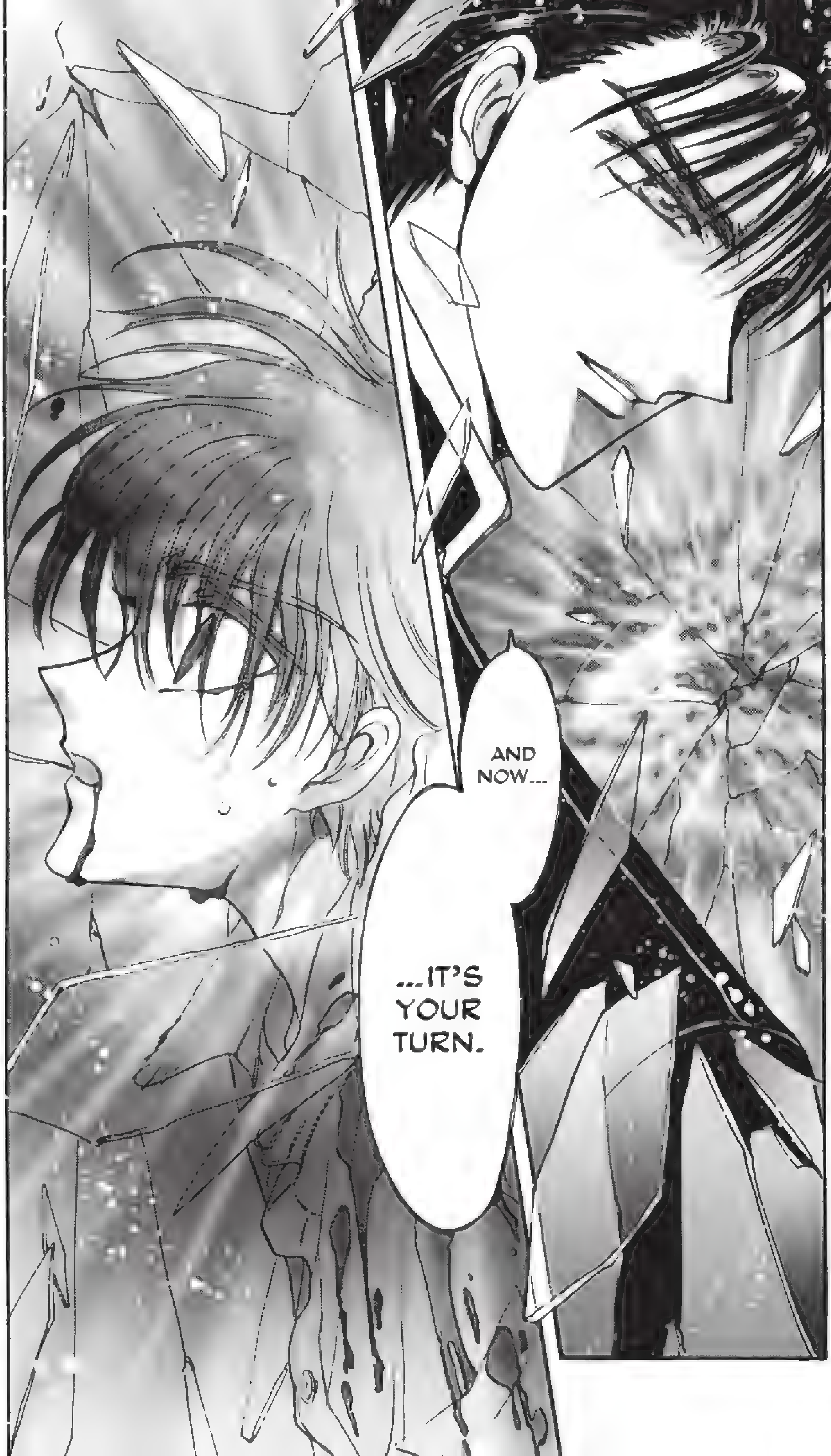
X

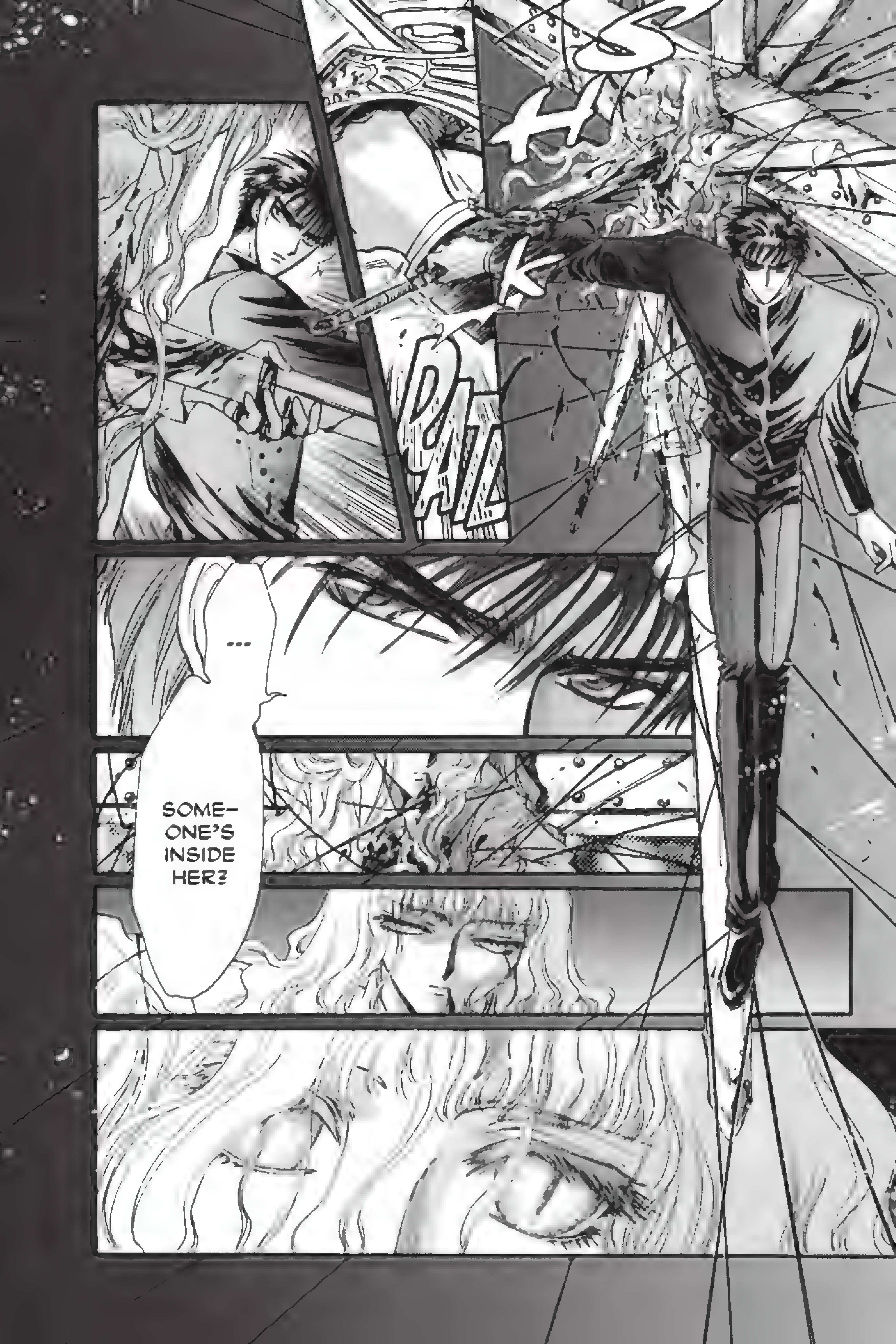


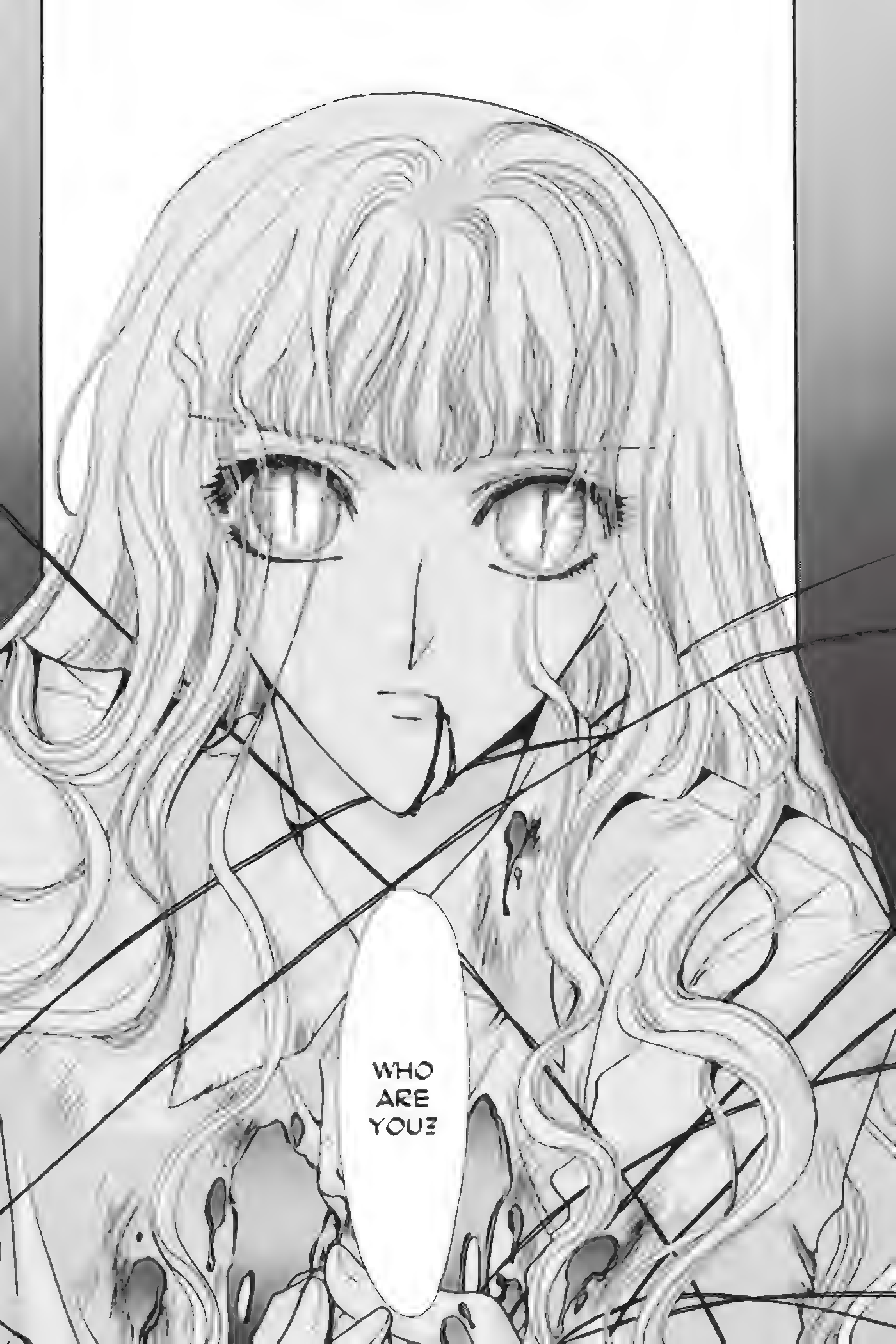
9 THE HERMIT

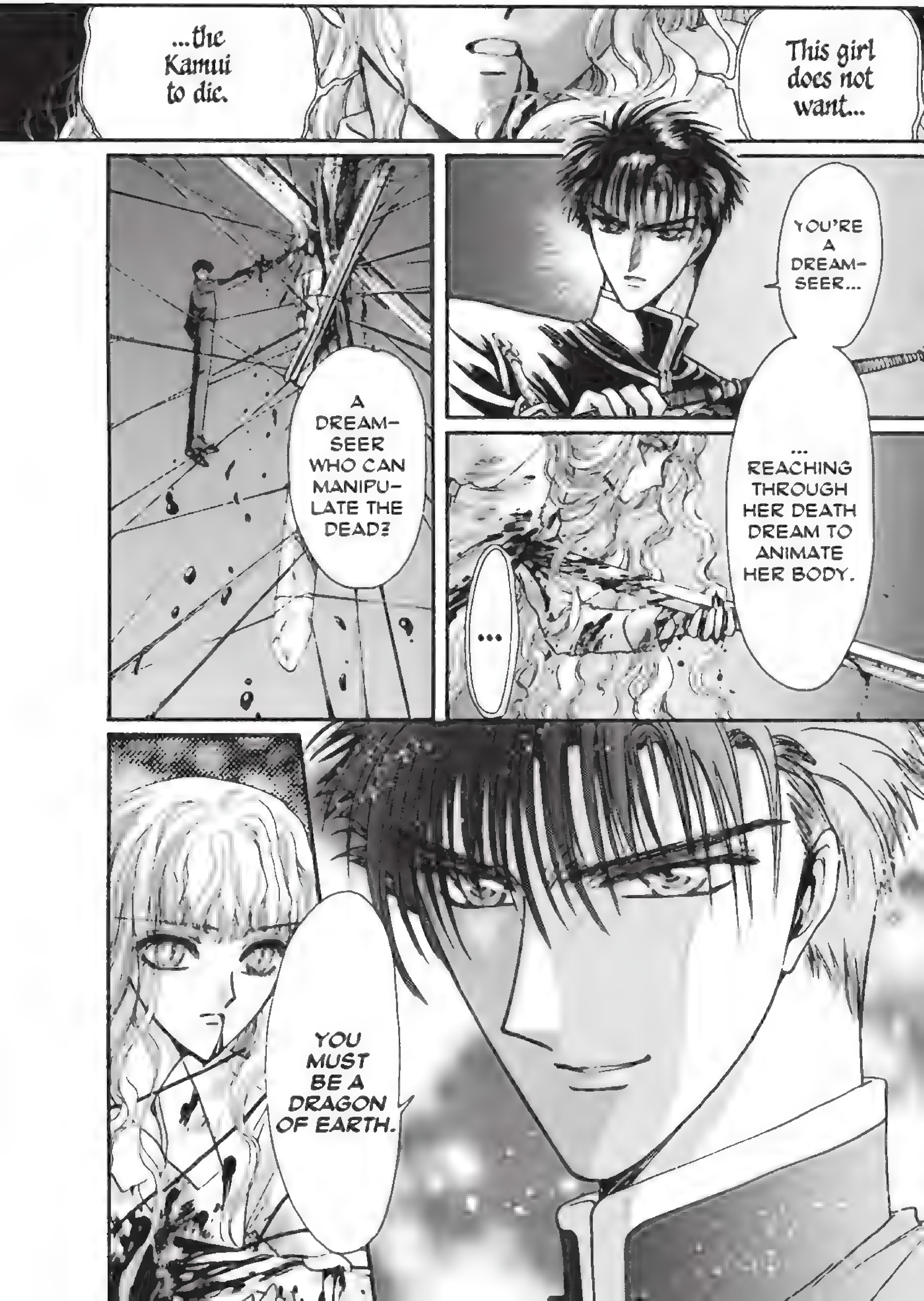
ט

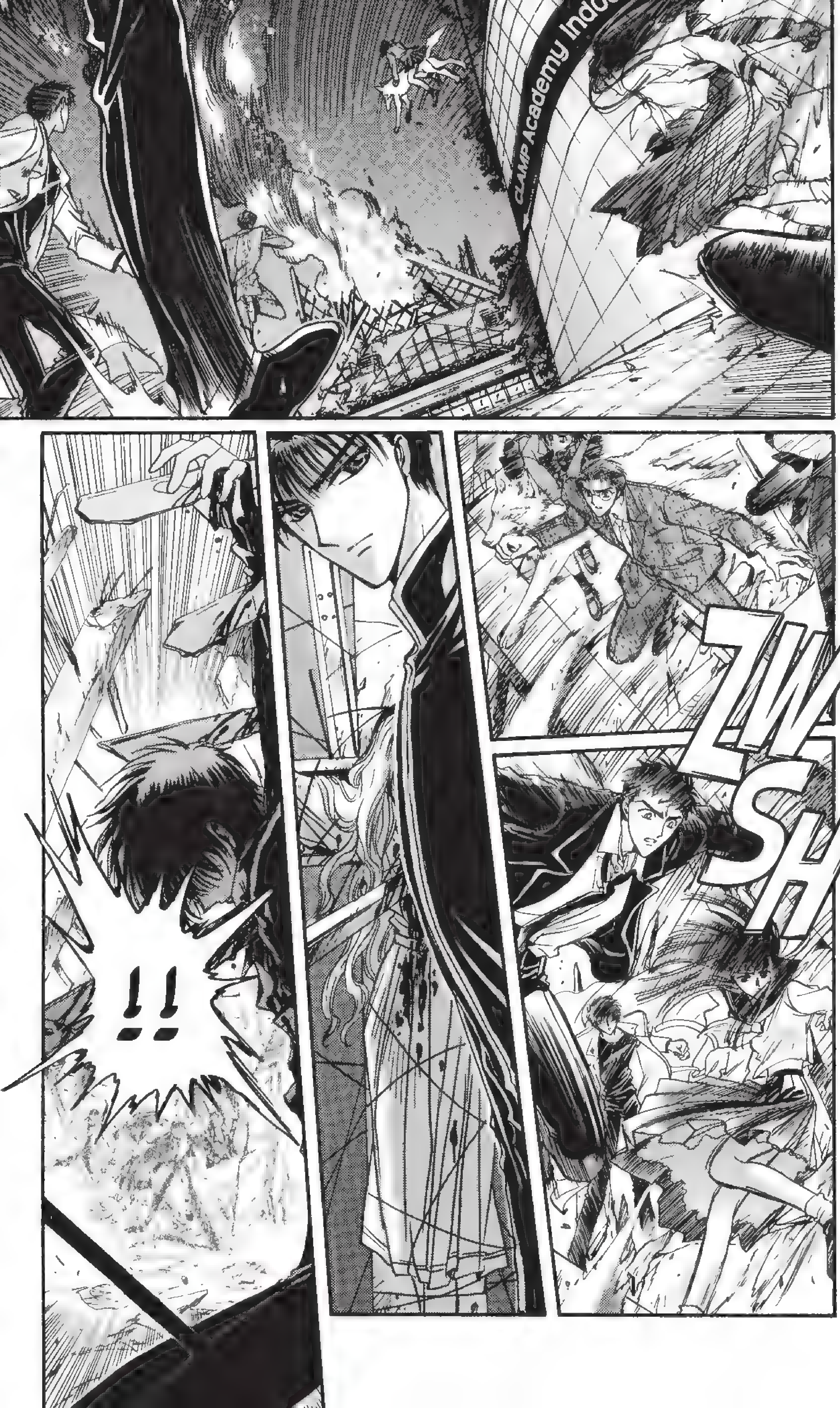

Fuma!!
NO. I AM THE KAMUI.

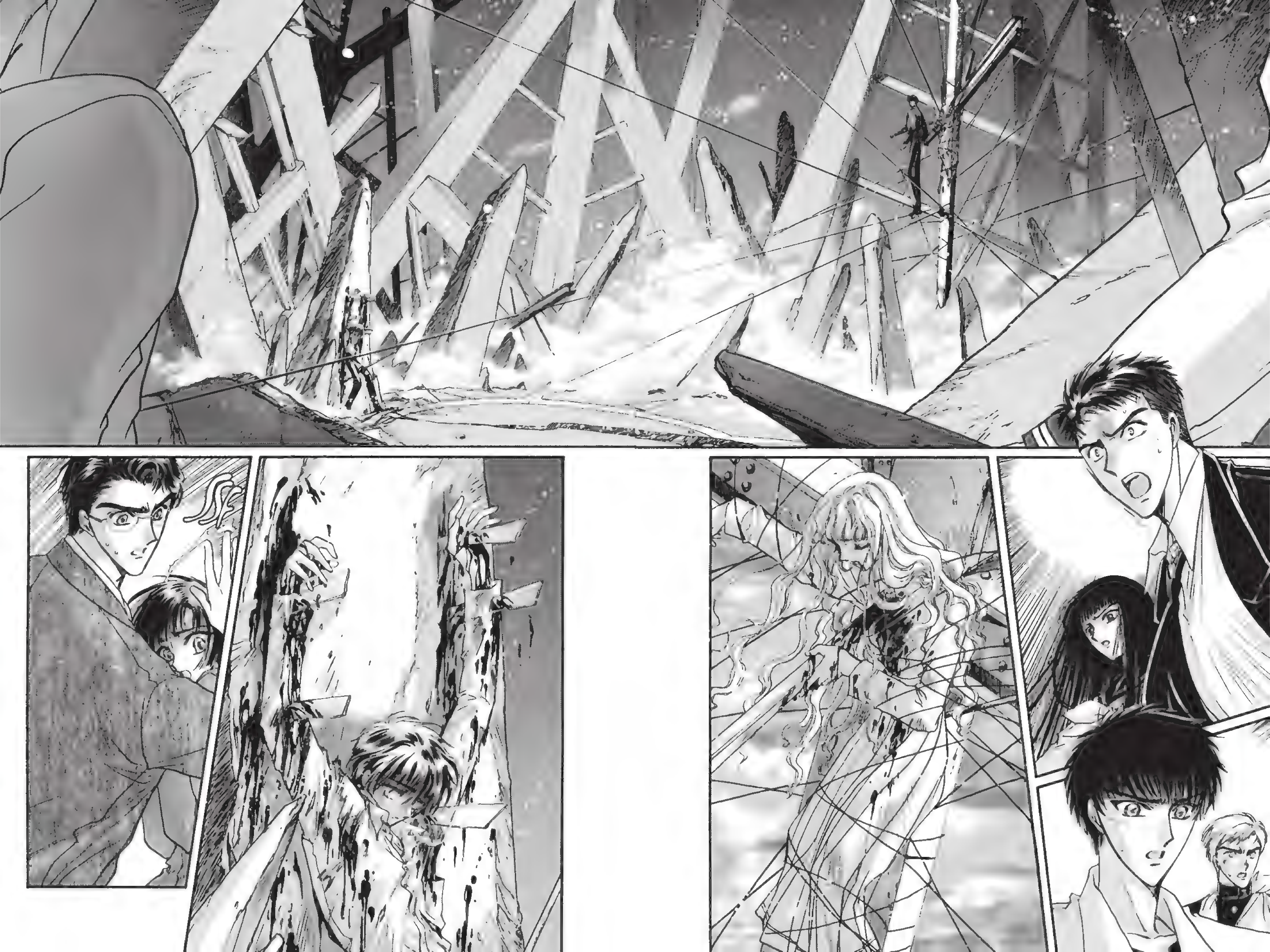

AND NOW...
...IT'S YOUR TURN.

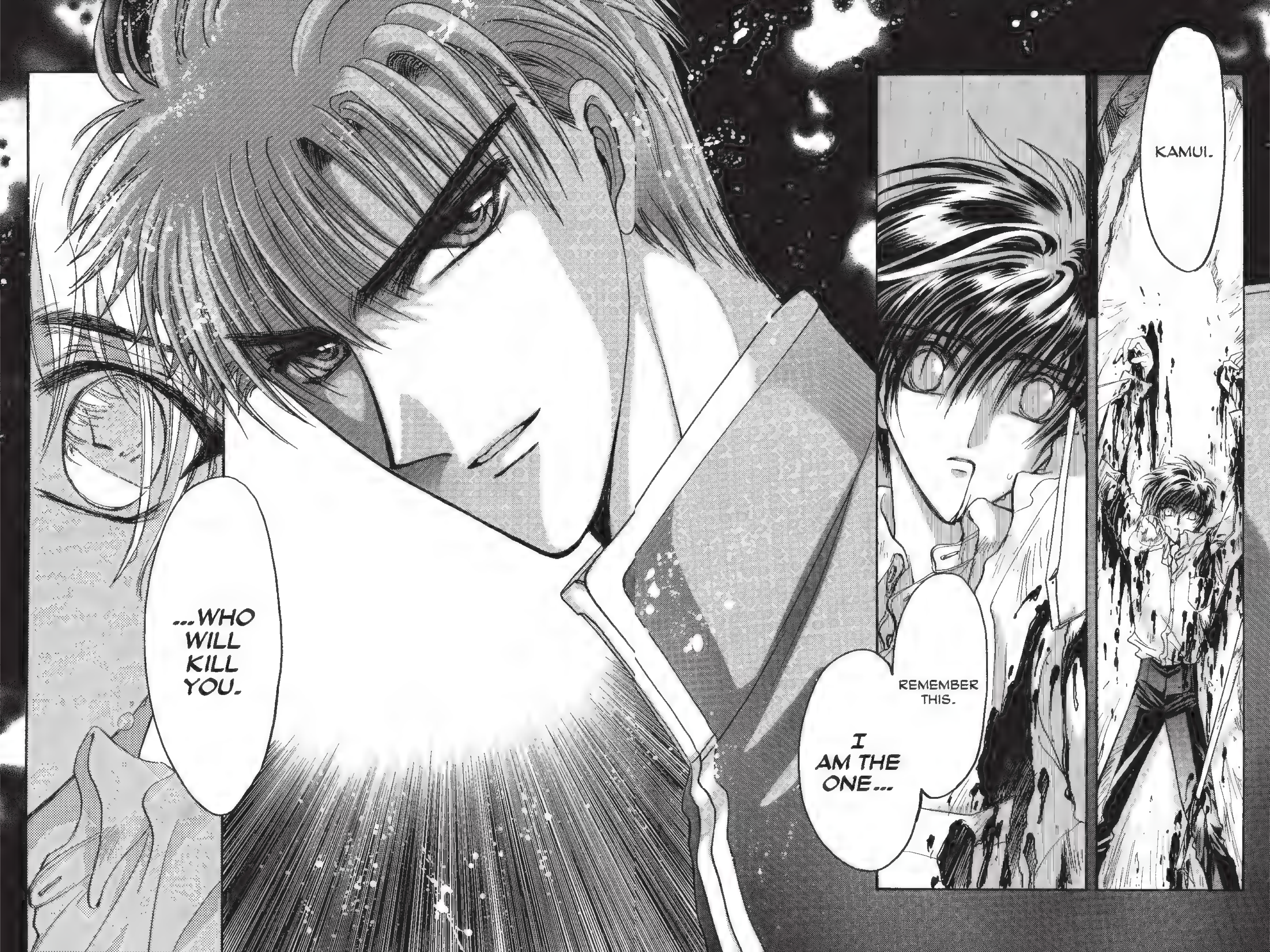

...
SOME-ONE'S INSIDE HER?

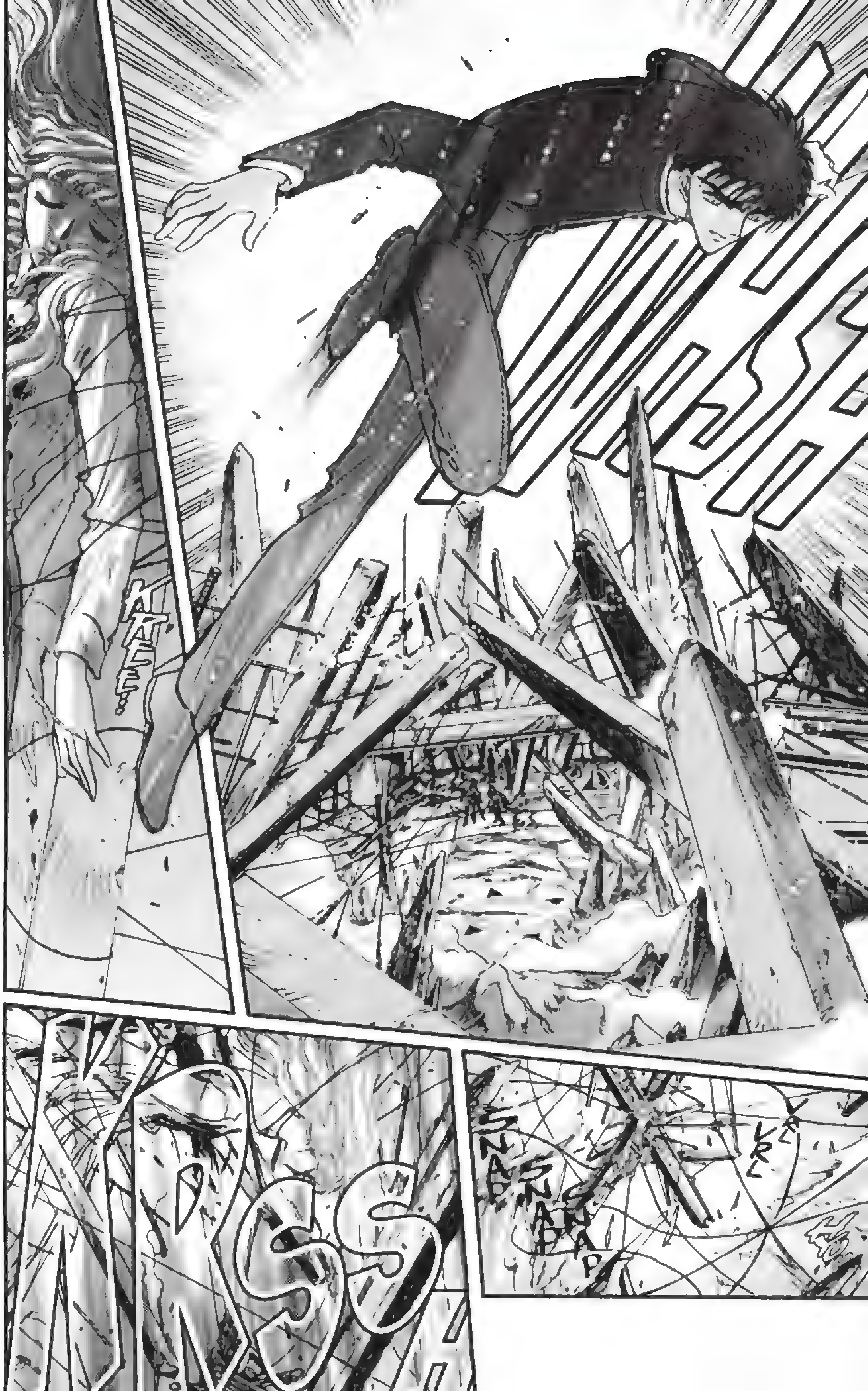

WHO ARE YOU?

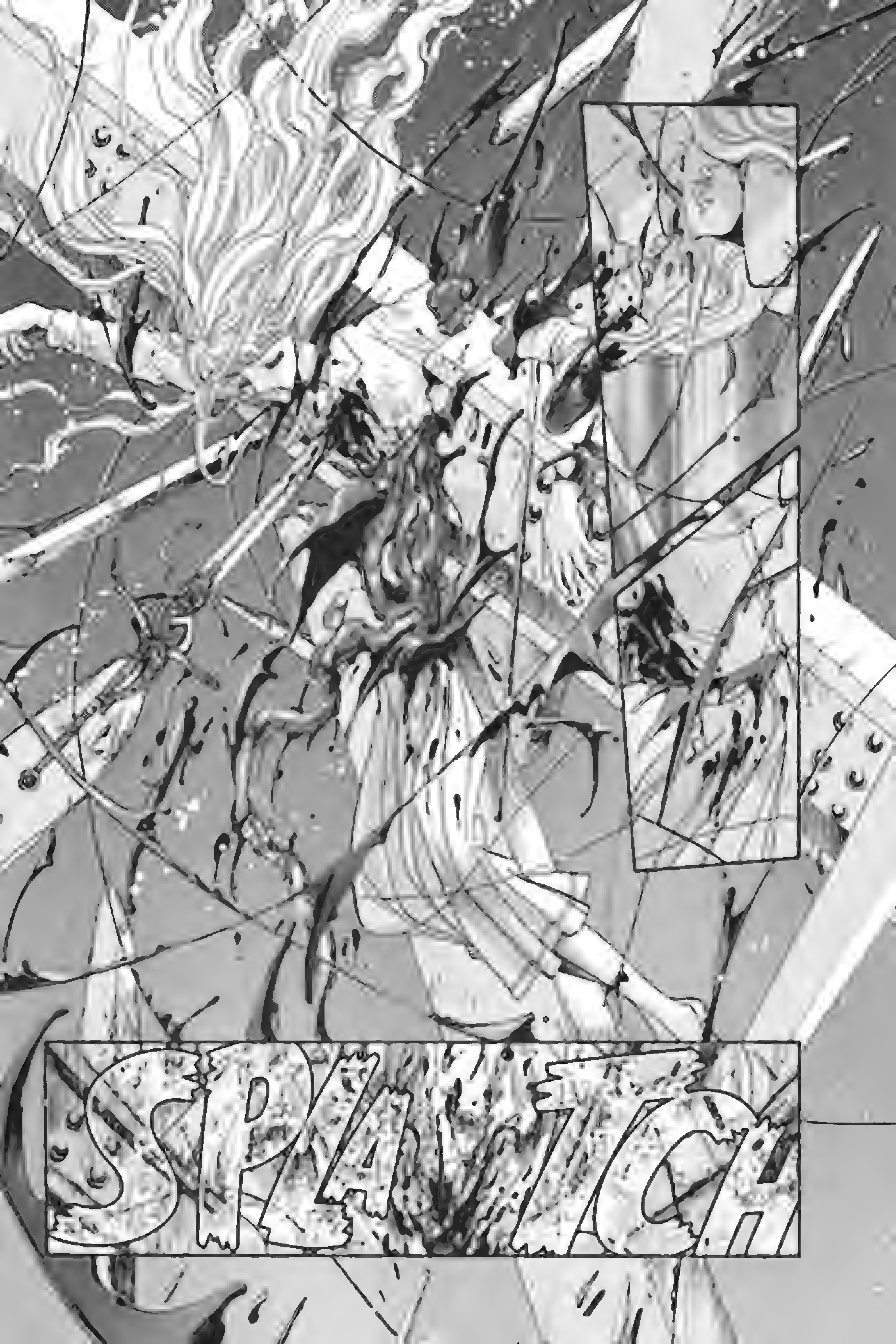

This girl does not want...
...the Kamui to die.
YOU'RE A DREAM-SEER...
...REACHING THROUGH HER DEATH DREAM TO ANIMATE HER BODY.
...
A DREAM-SEER WHO CAN MANIPULATE THE DEAD?
YOU MUST BE A DRAGON OF EARTH.

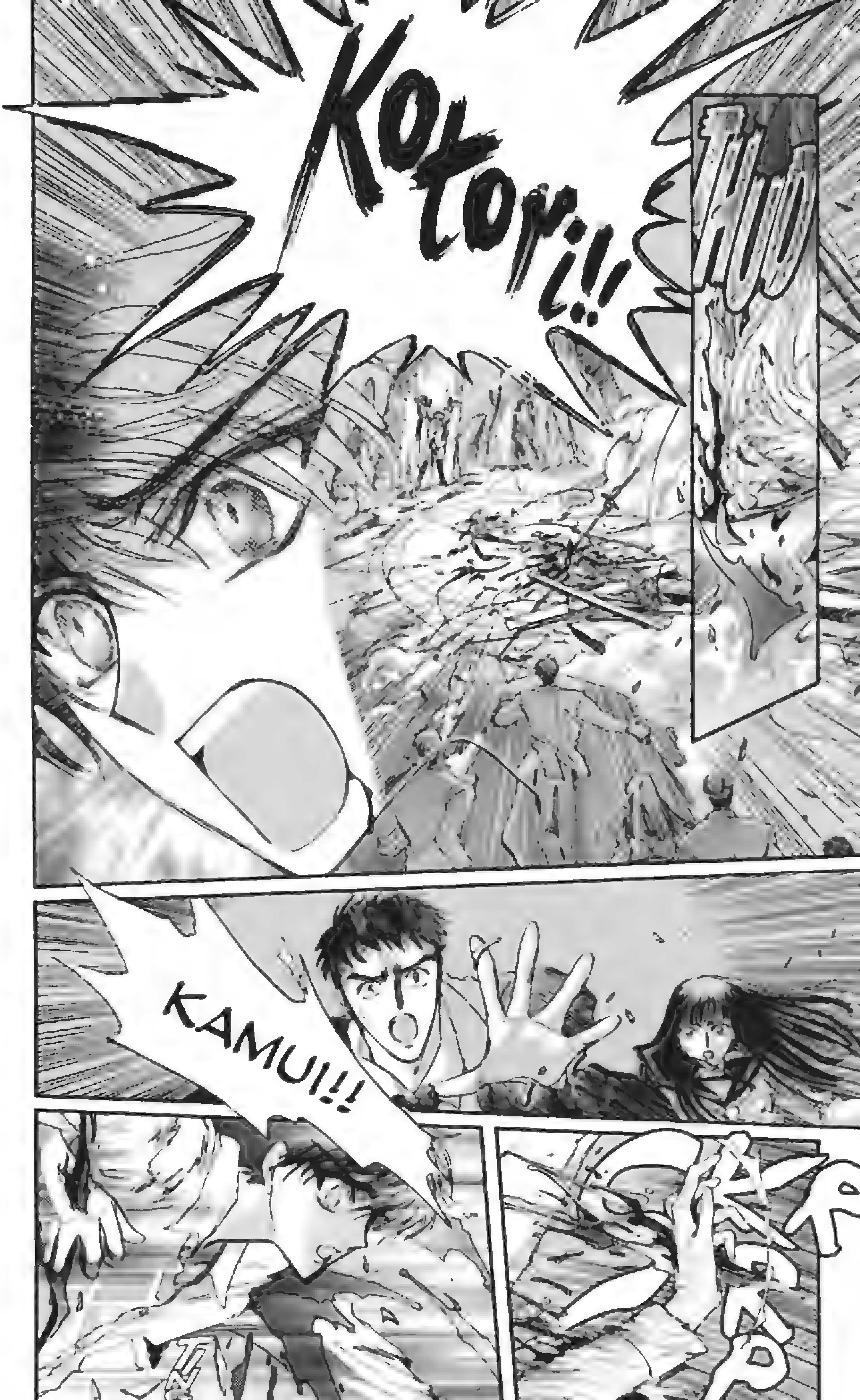

CLAMP Academy Indo
ZWISH
!!

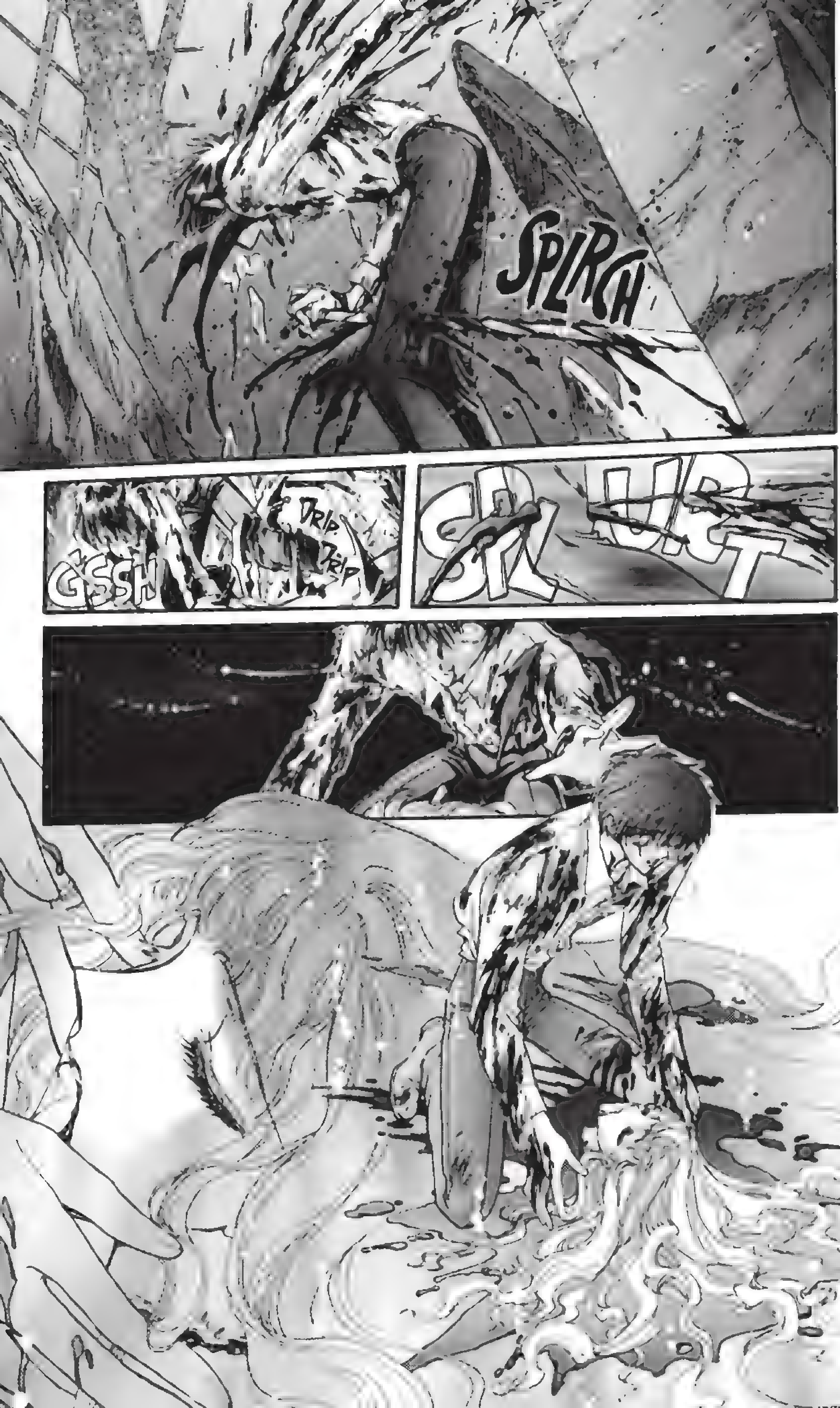


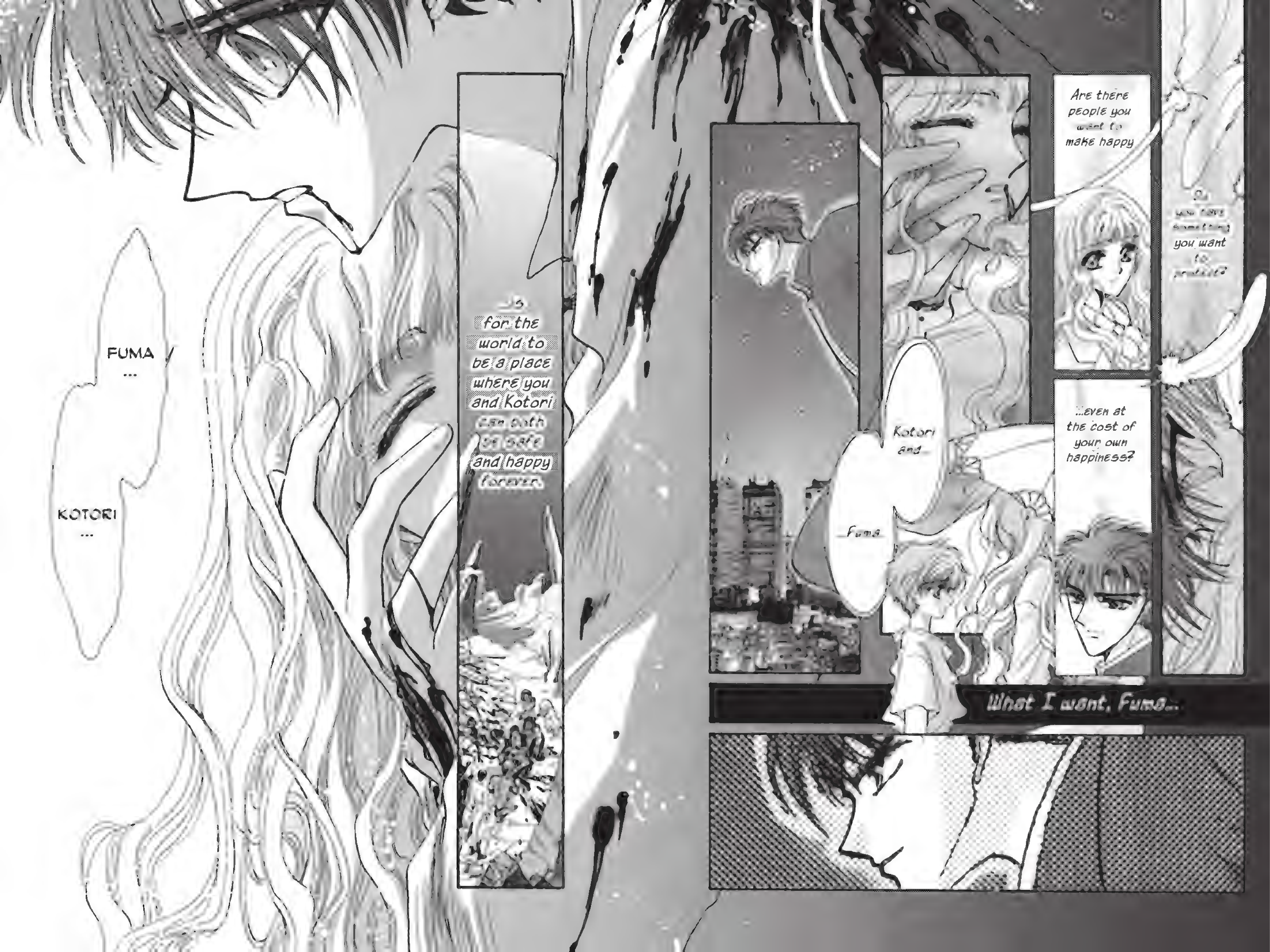

KAMUI.
REMEMBER THIS.
I AM THE ONE...
...WHO WILL KILL YOU.

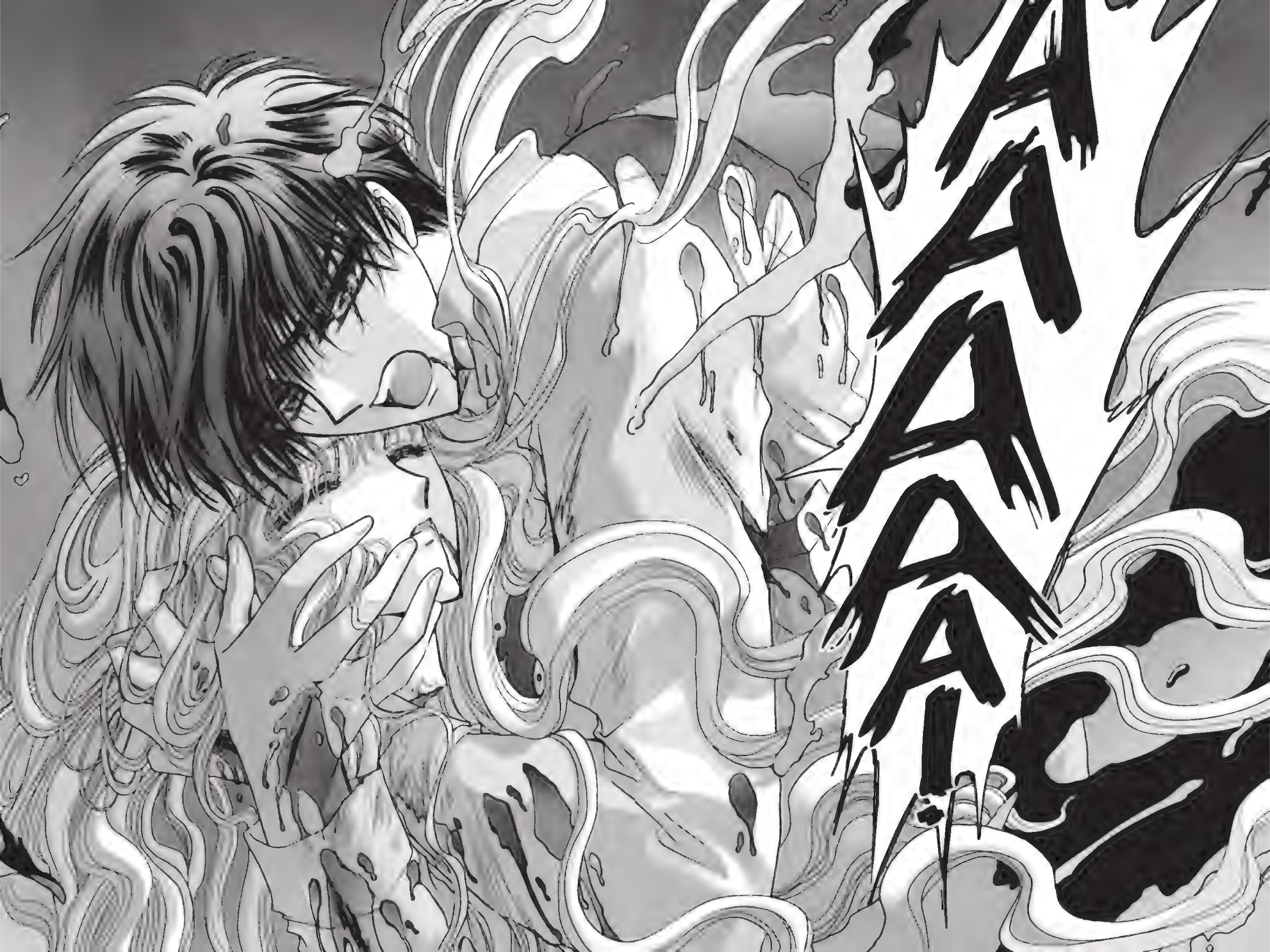

WHSH
KRAEE!!
SNAP SNAP SNAP
KRL KRL
KRSSH

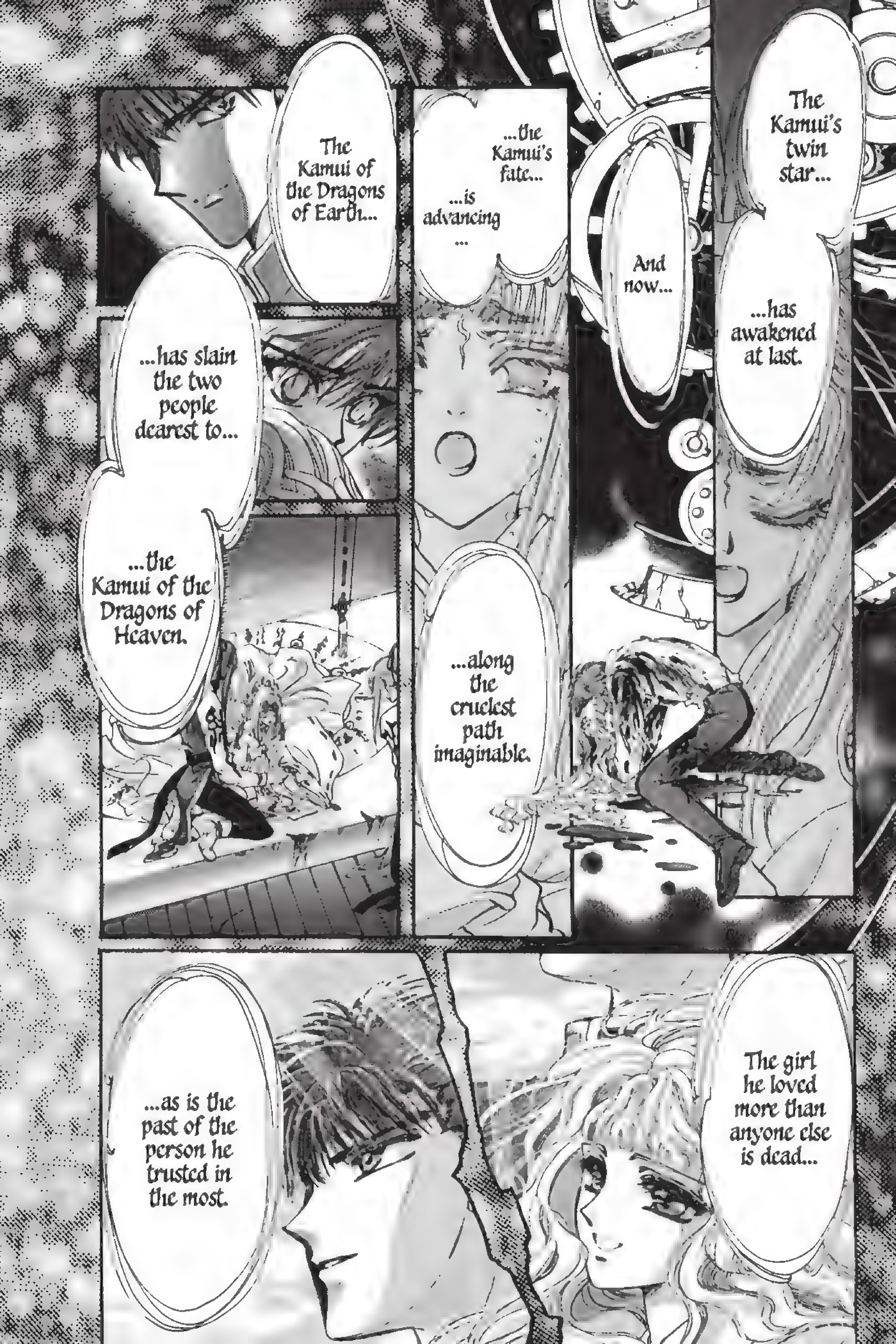

SPLATCH

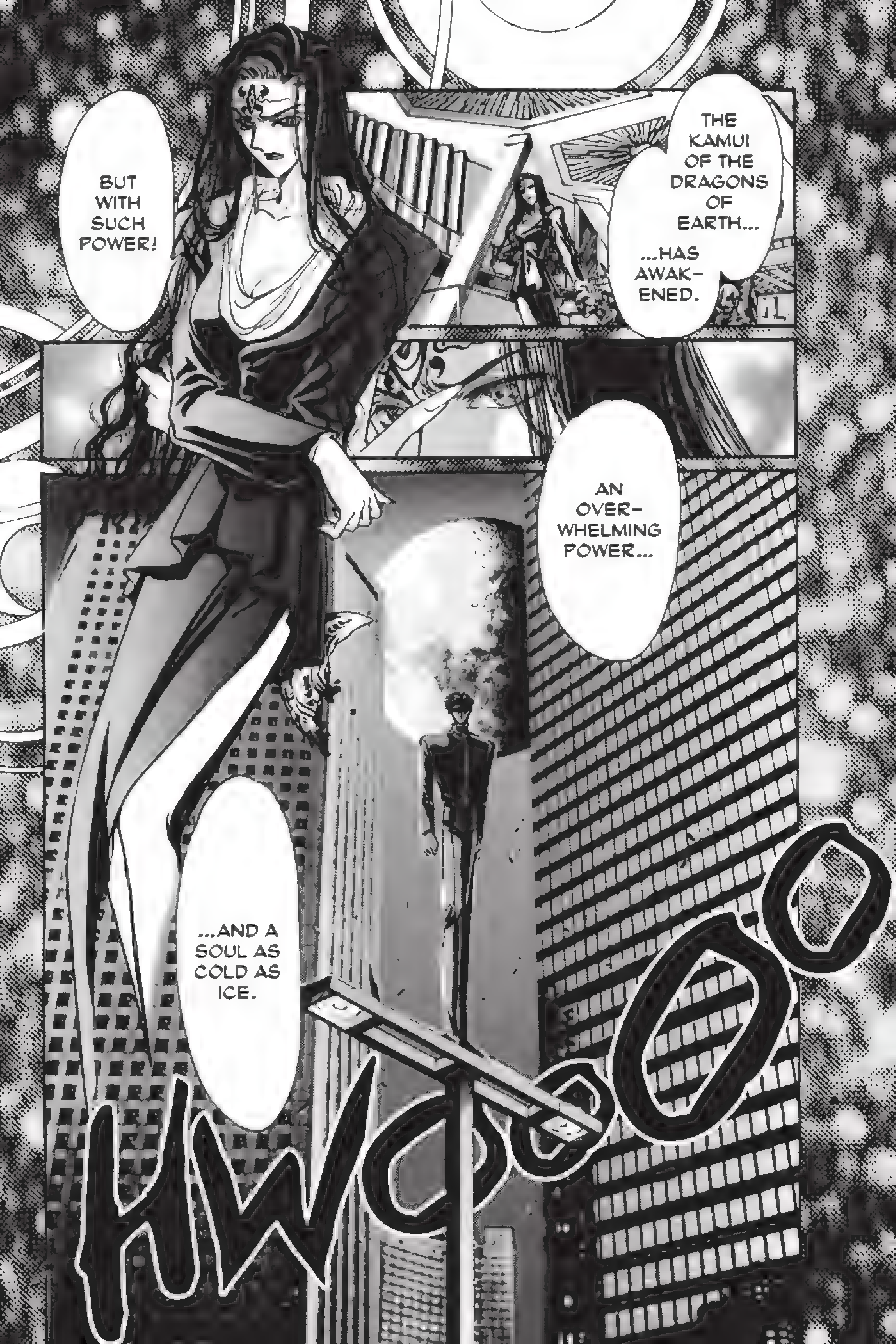

Thud
Kotori!!
KAMUI!!
TAP

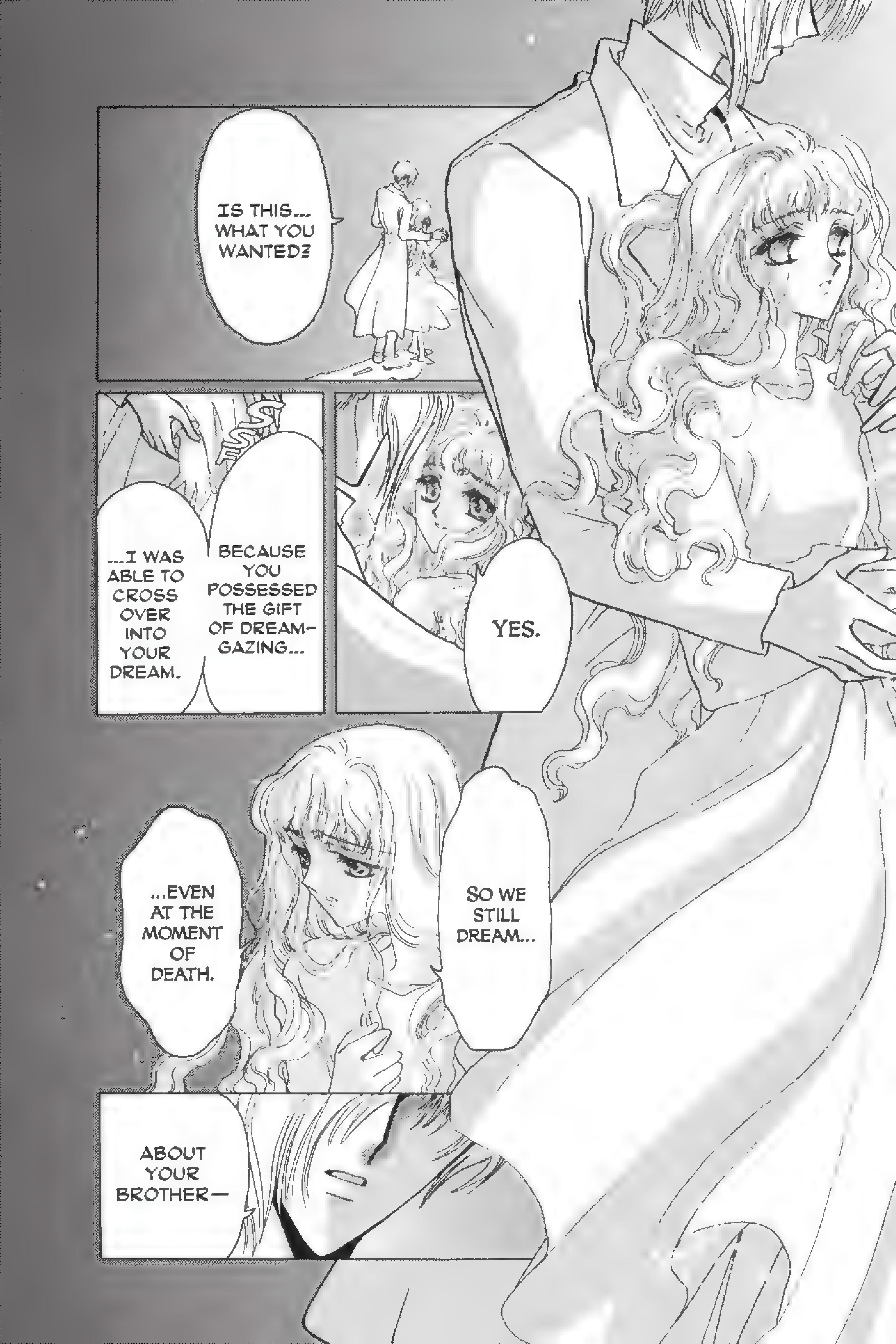

SPLRCH
GSSH
DRIP
DRIP
SPLURCT

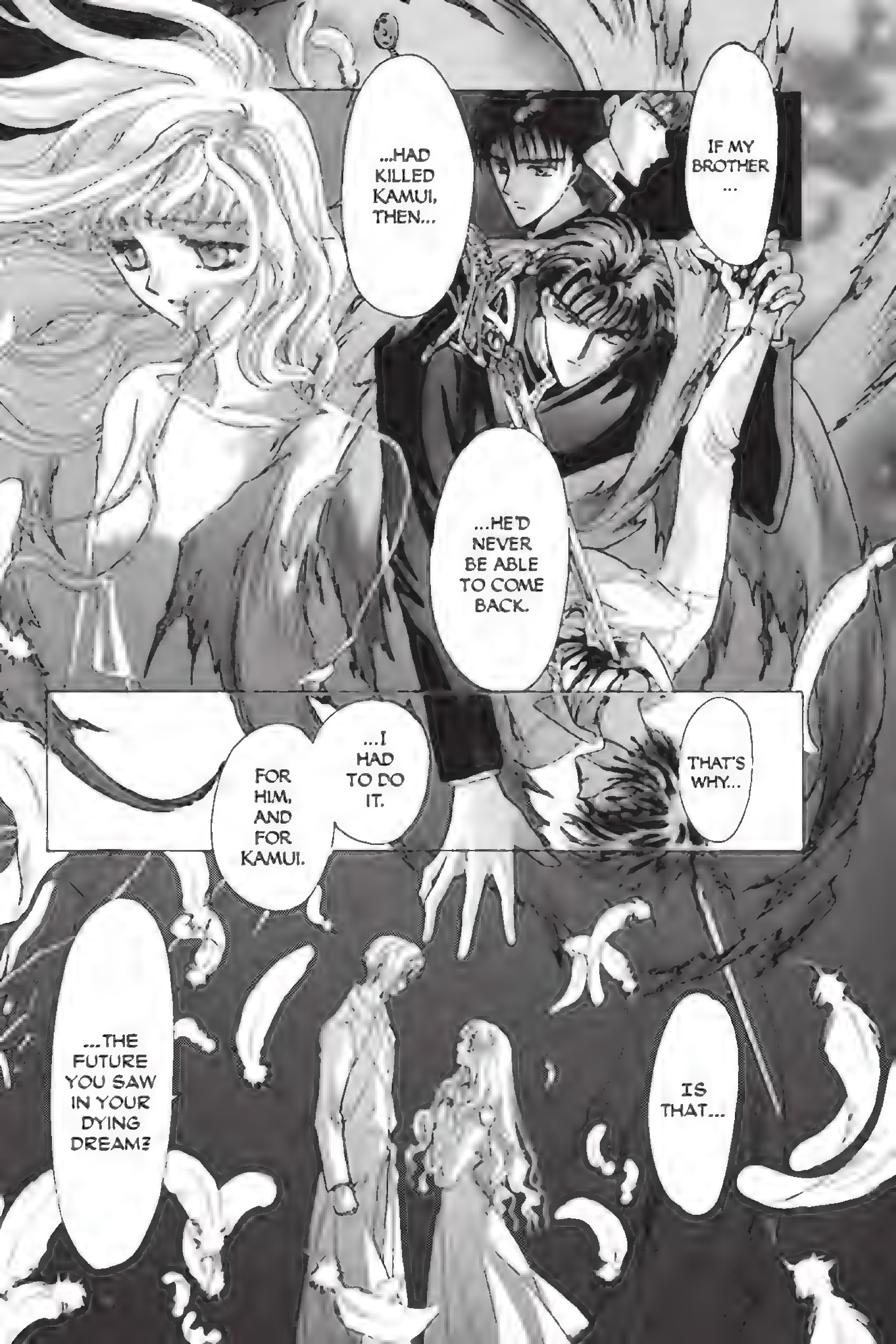

Are there people you want to make happy
Or you have something you want to protect?
...even at the cost of your own happiness?
Kotori and...
...Fuma.
What I want, Fuma...
...is for the world to be a place where you and Kotori can both be safe and happy forever.
FUMA...
KOTORI...

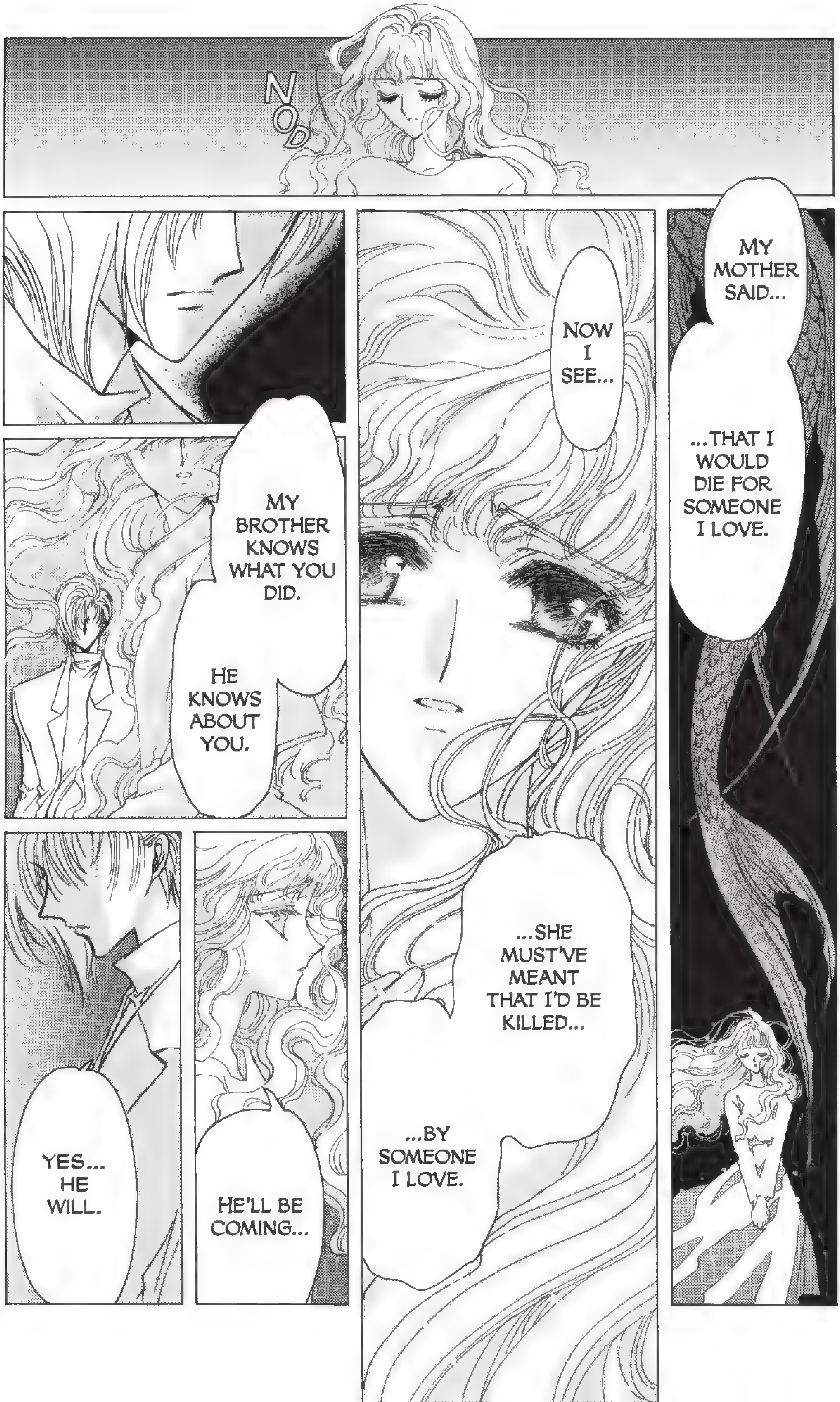

AAAAAA

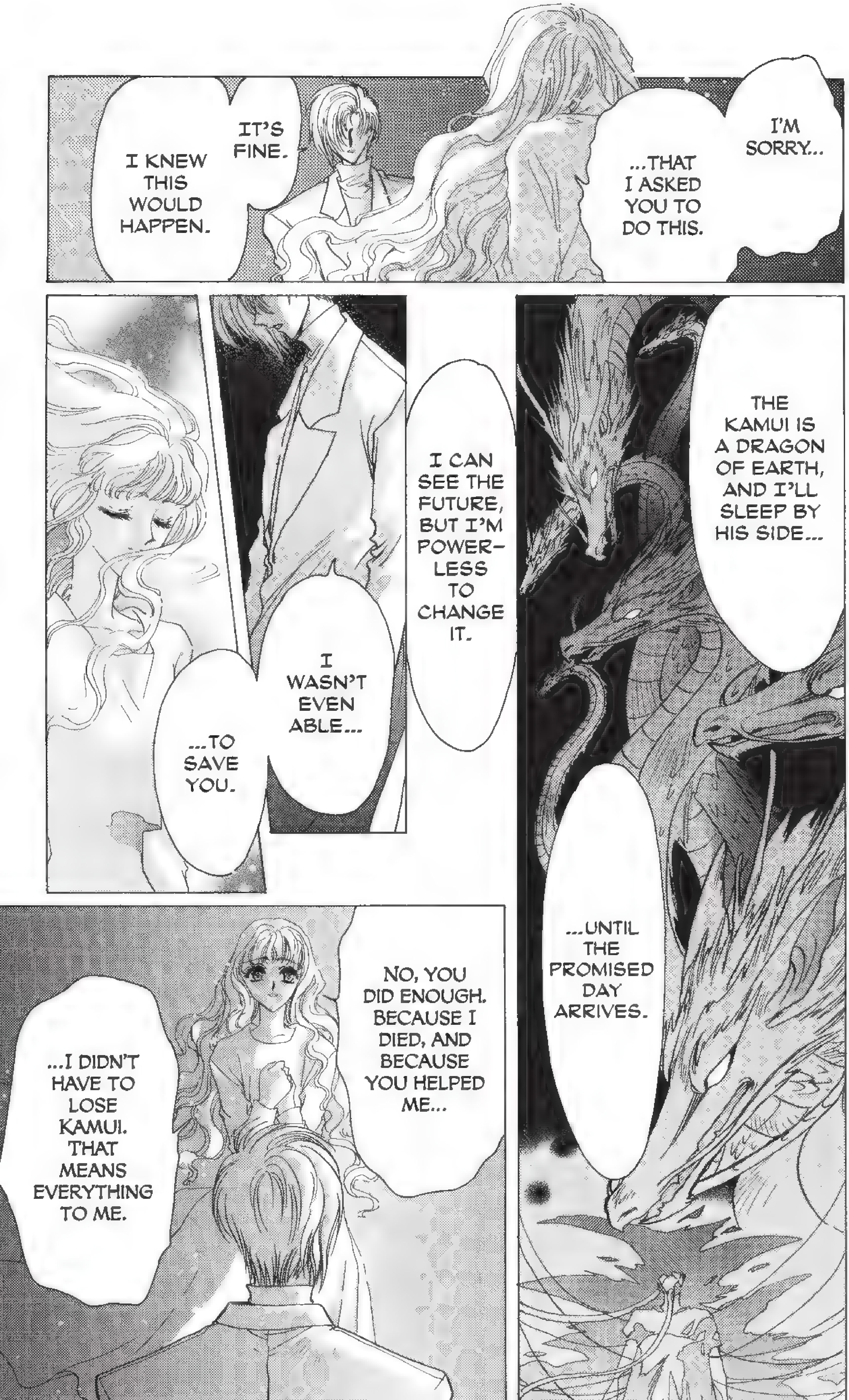

The Kamui's twin star...
...has awakened at last.
And now...
...the Kamui's fate...
...is advancing...
...along the cruelest path imaginable.
The Kamui of the Dragons of Earth...
...has slain the two people dearest to...
...the Kamui of the Dragons of Heaven.
The girl he loved more than anyone else is dead...
...as is the past of the person he trusted in the most.

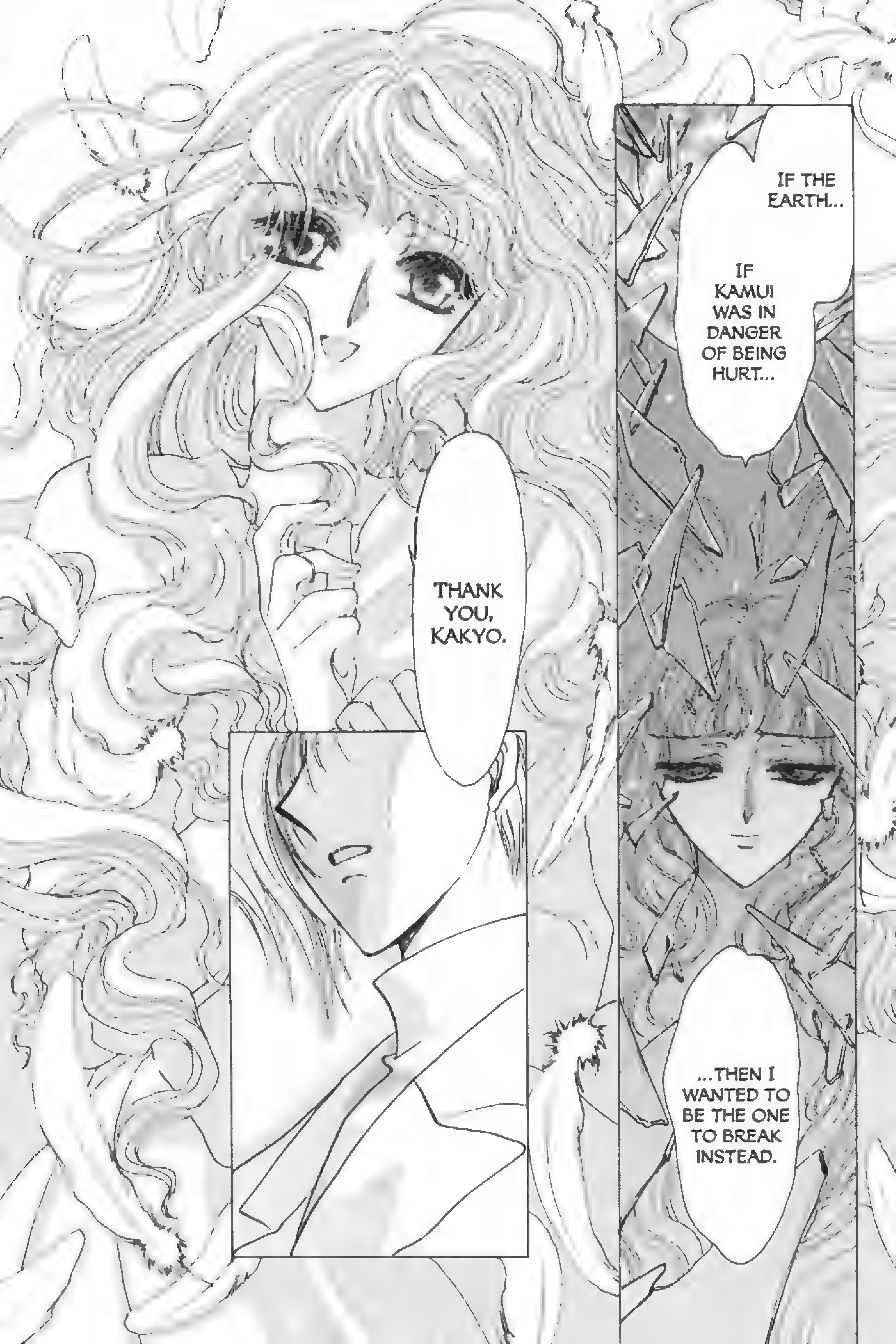

THE KAMUI OF THE DRAGONS OF EARTH...
...HAS AWAKENED.
BUT WITH SUCH POWER!
AN OVERWHELMING POWER...
...AND A SOUL AS COLD AS ICE.
HWOOOOO

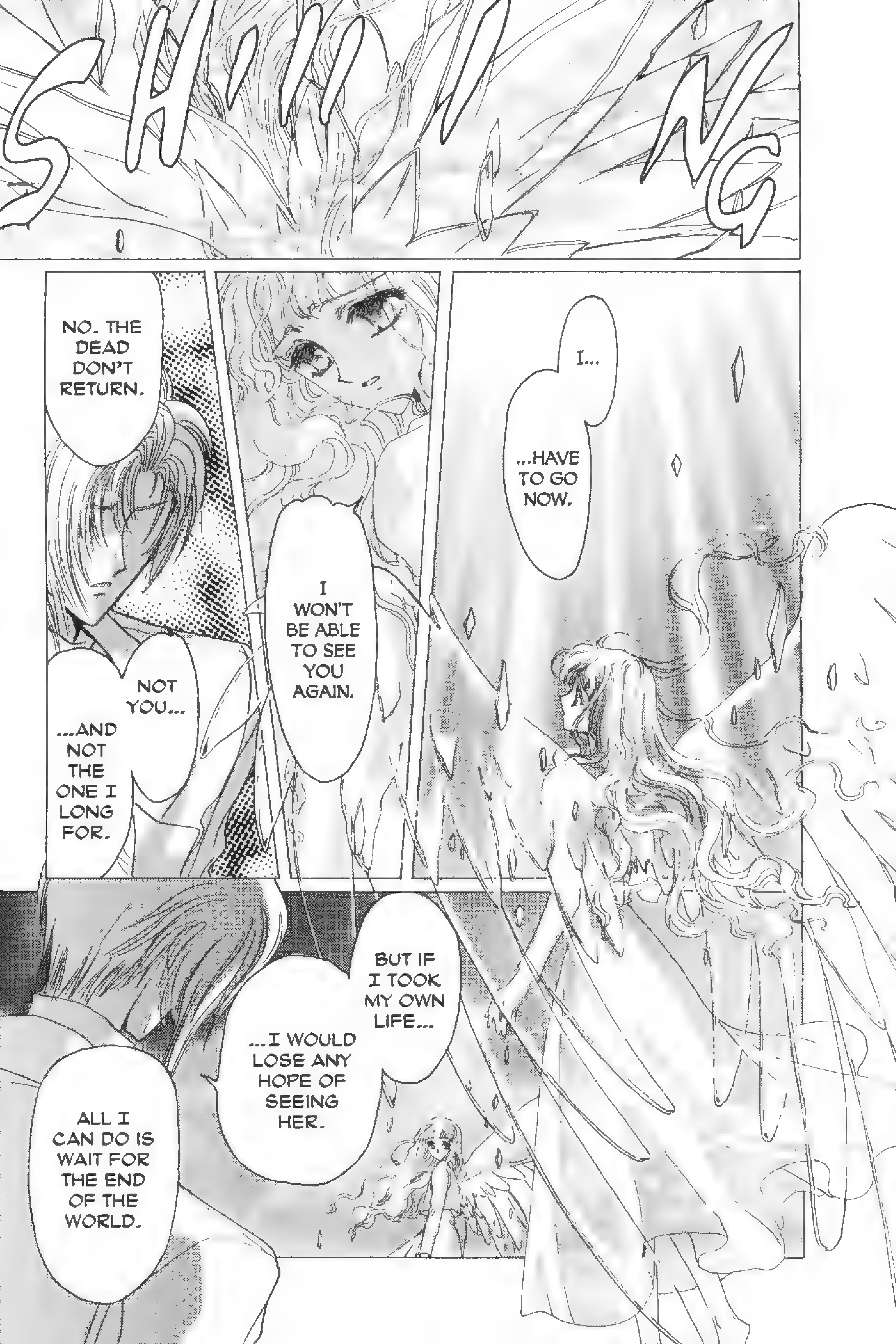

IS THIS... WHAT YOU WANTED?
YES.
BECAUSE YOU POSSESSED THE GIFT OF DREAM-GAZING...
...I WAS ABLE TO CROSS OVER INTO YOUR DREAM.
SO WE STILL DREAM...
...EVEN AT THE MOMENT OF DEATH.
ABOUT YOUR BROTHER—

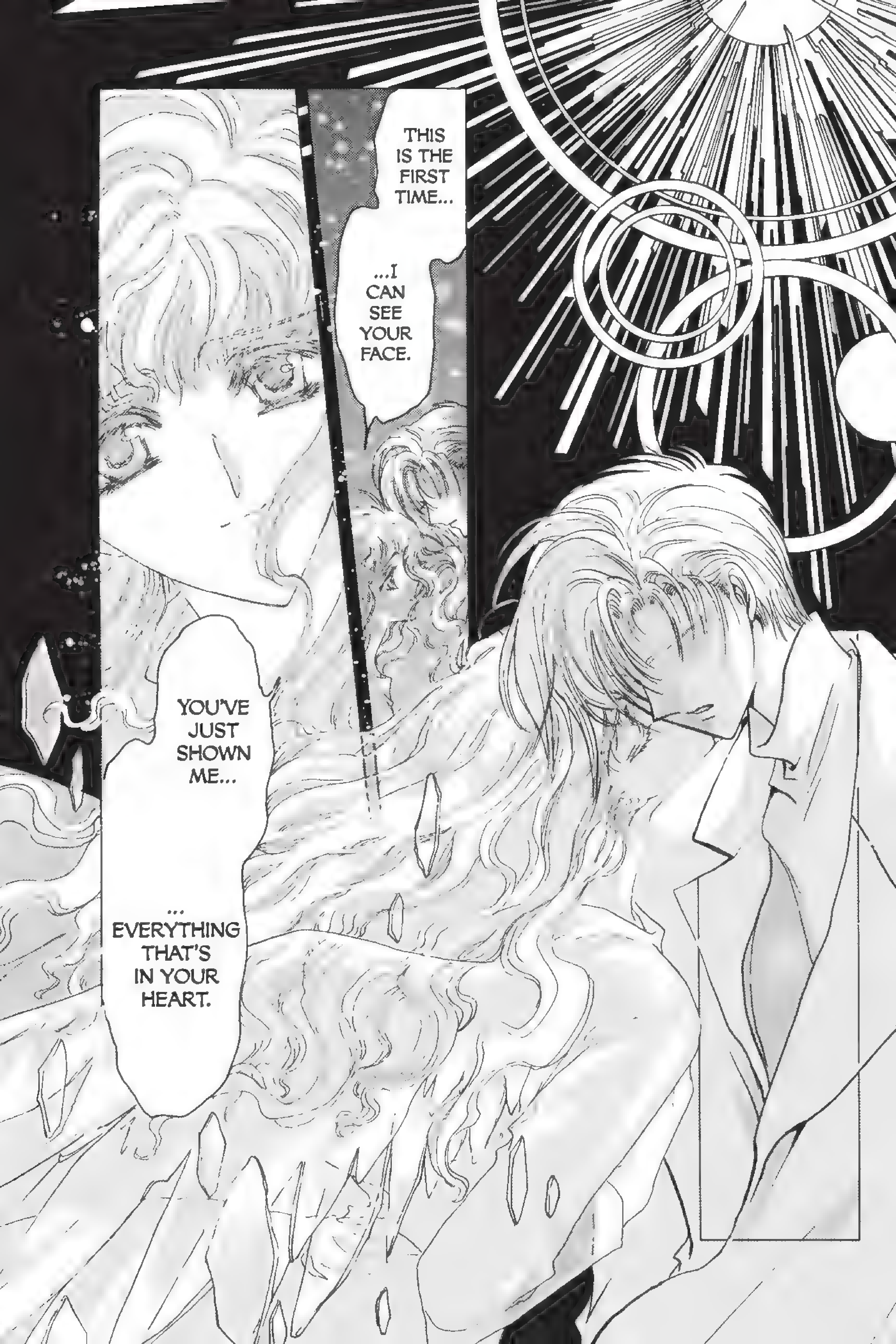

IF MY BROTHER ...
...HAD KILLED KAMUI, THEN...
...HE'D NEVER BE ABLE TO COME BACK.
THAT'S WHY...
...I HAD TO DO IT.
FOR HIM, AND FOR KAMUI.
IS THAT...
...THE FUTURE YOU SAW IN YOUR DYING DREAM?

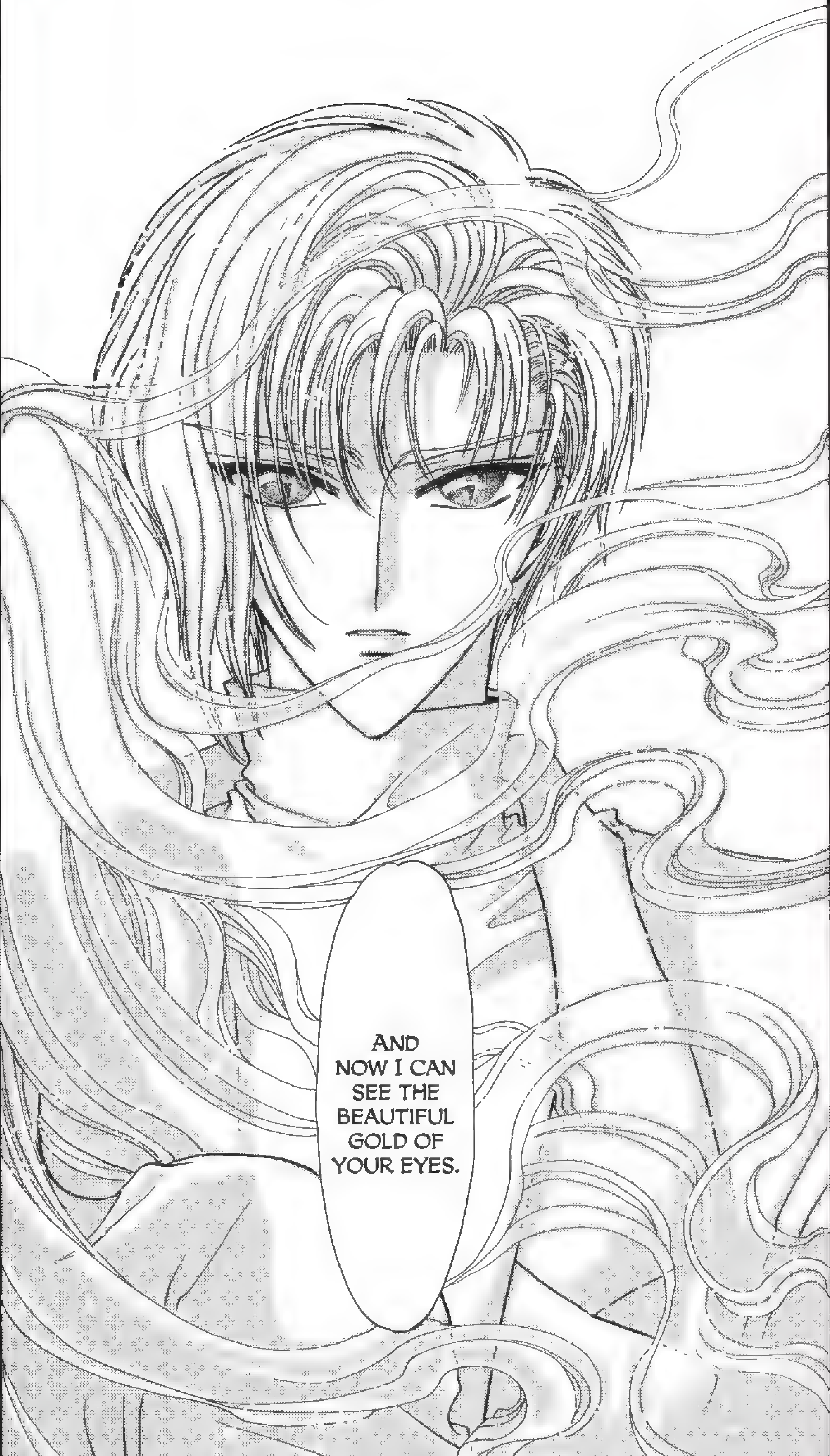

NOD
MY MOTHER SAID...
...THAT I WOULD DIE FOR SOMEONE I LOVE.
NOW I SEE...
...SHE MUST'VE MEANT THAT I'D BE KILLED...
...BY SOMEONE I LOVE.
MY BROTHER KNOWS WHAT YOU DID.
HE KNOWS ABOUT YOU.
HE'LL BE COMING...
YES... HE WILL.

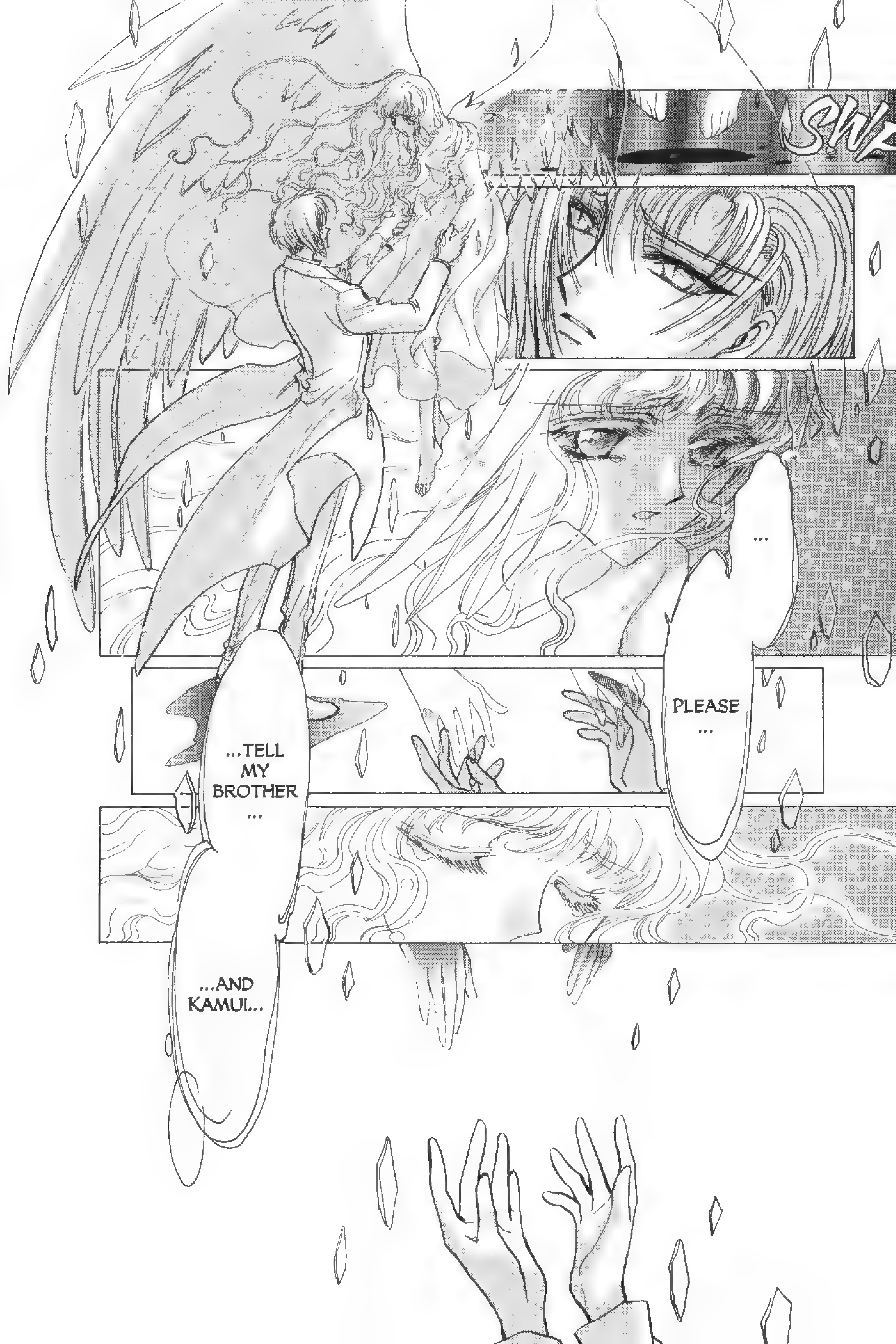

I'M SORRY...
...THAT I ASKED YOU TO DO THIS.
IT'S FINE.
I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN.
I CAN SEE THE FUTURE, BUT I'M POWERLESS TO CHANGE IT.
I WASN'T EVEN ABLE...
...TO SAVE YOU.
NO, YOU DID ENOUGH. BECAUSE I DIED, AND BECAUSE YOU HELPED ME...
...I DIDN'T HAVE TO LOSE KAMUI. THAT MEANS EVERYTHING TO ME.
THE KAMUI IS A DRAGON OF EARTH, AND I'LL SLEEP BY HIS SIDE...
...UNTIL THE PROMISED DAY ARRIVES.

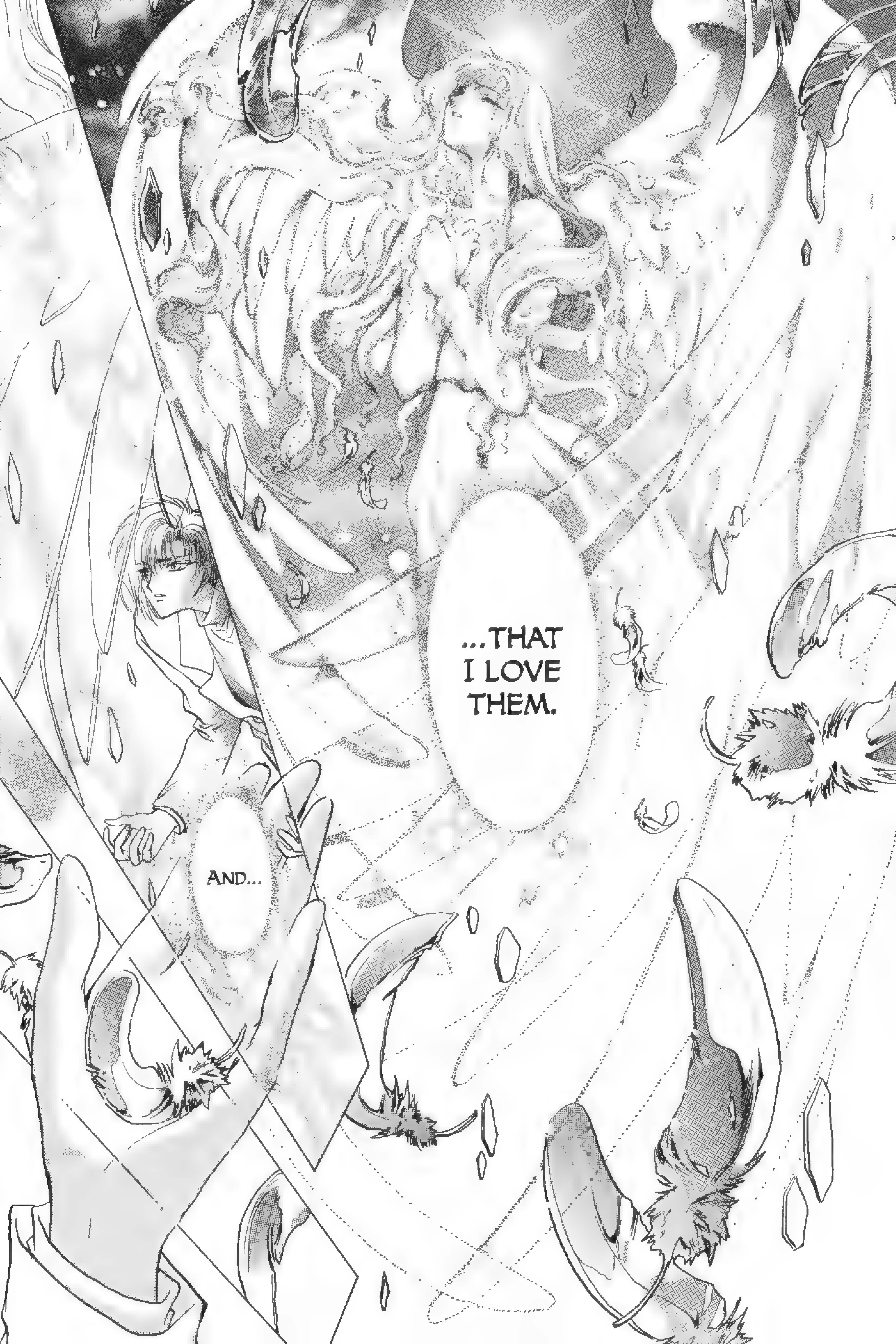

IF THE EARTH...
IF KAMUI WAS IN DANGER OF BEING HURT...
...THEN I WANTED TO BE THE ONE TO BREAK INSTEAD.
THANK YOU, KAKYO.

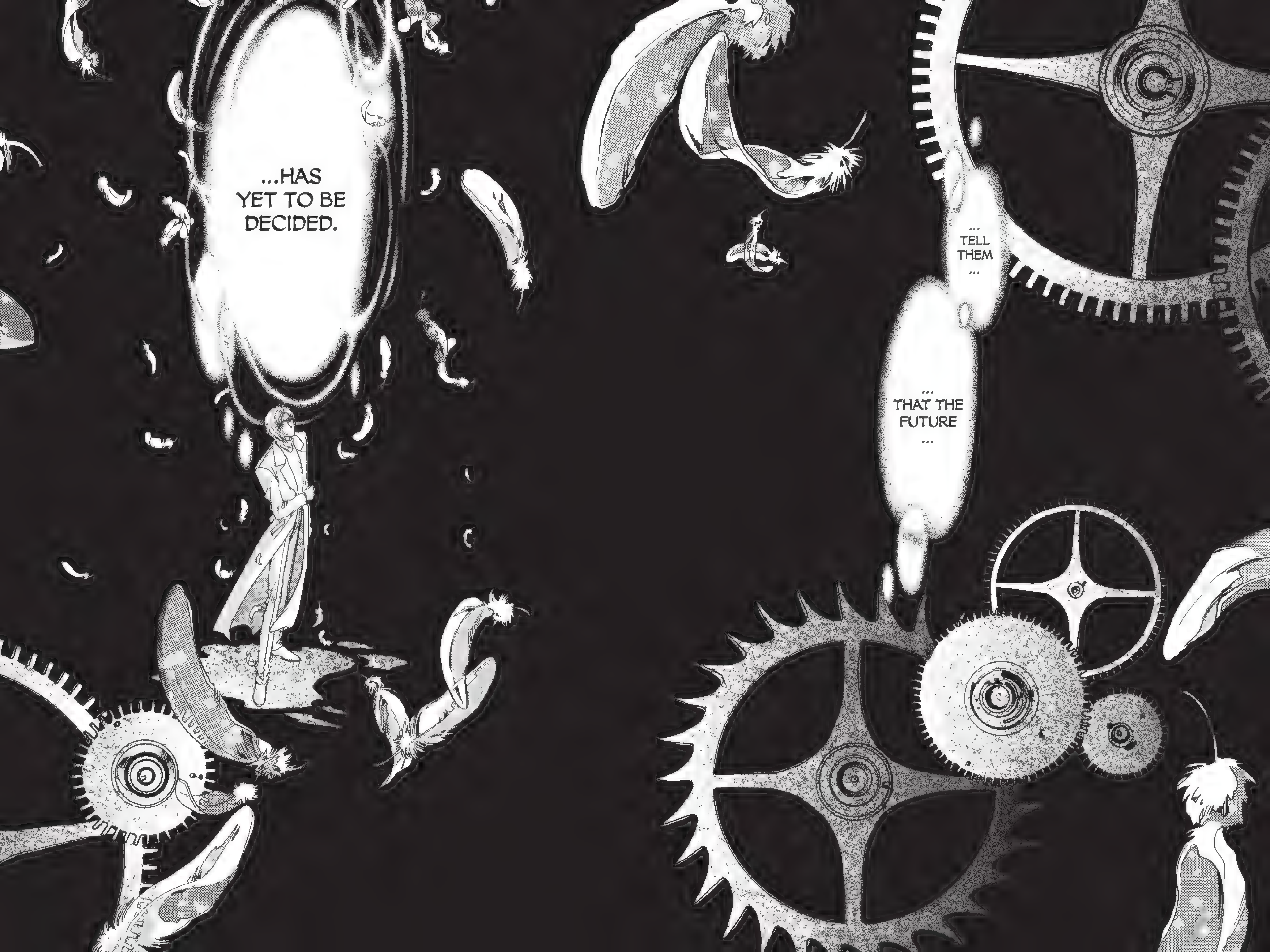

SHIIIING
I...
...HAVE TO GO NOW.
I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
NO. THE DEAD DON'T RETURN.
NOT YOU...
...AND NOT THE ONE I LONG FOR.
BUT IF I TOOK MY OWN LIFE...
...I WOULD LOSE ANY HOPE OF SEEING HER.
ALL I CAN DO IS WAIT FOR THE END OF THE WORLD.

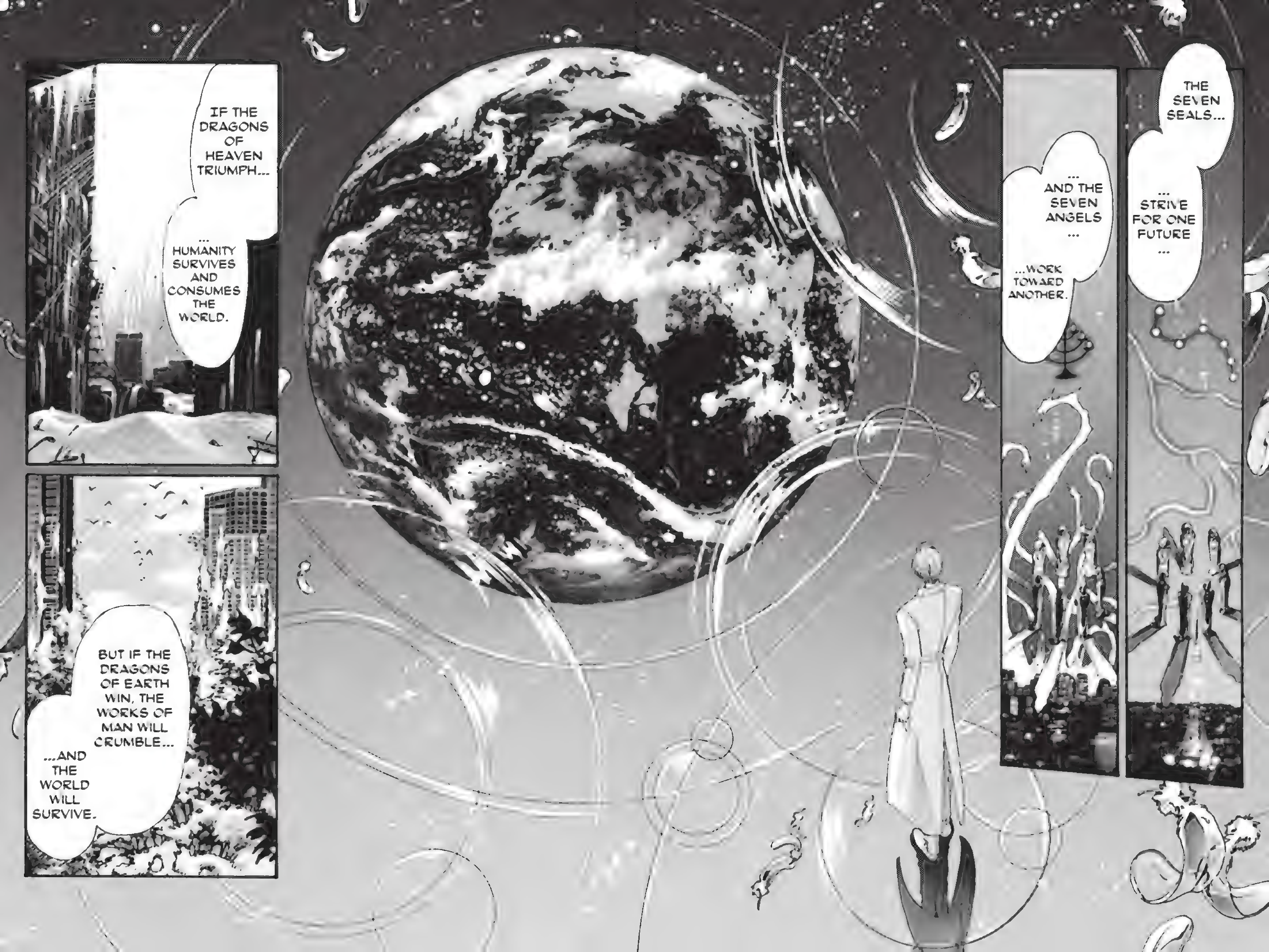

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME...
...I CAN SEE YOUR FACE.
YOU'VE JUST SHOWN ME...
...EVERYTHING THAT'S IN YOUR HEART.

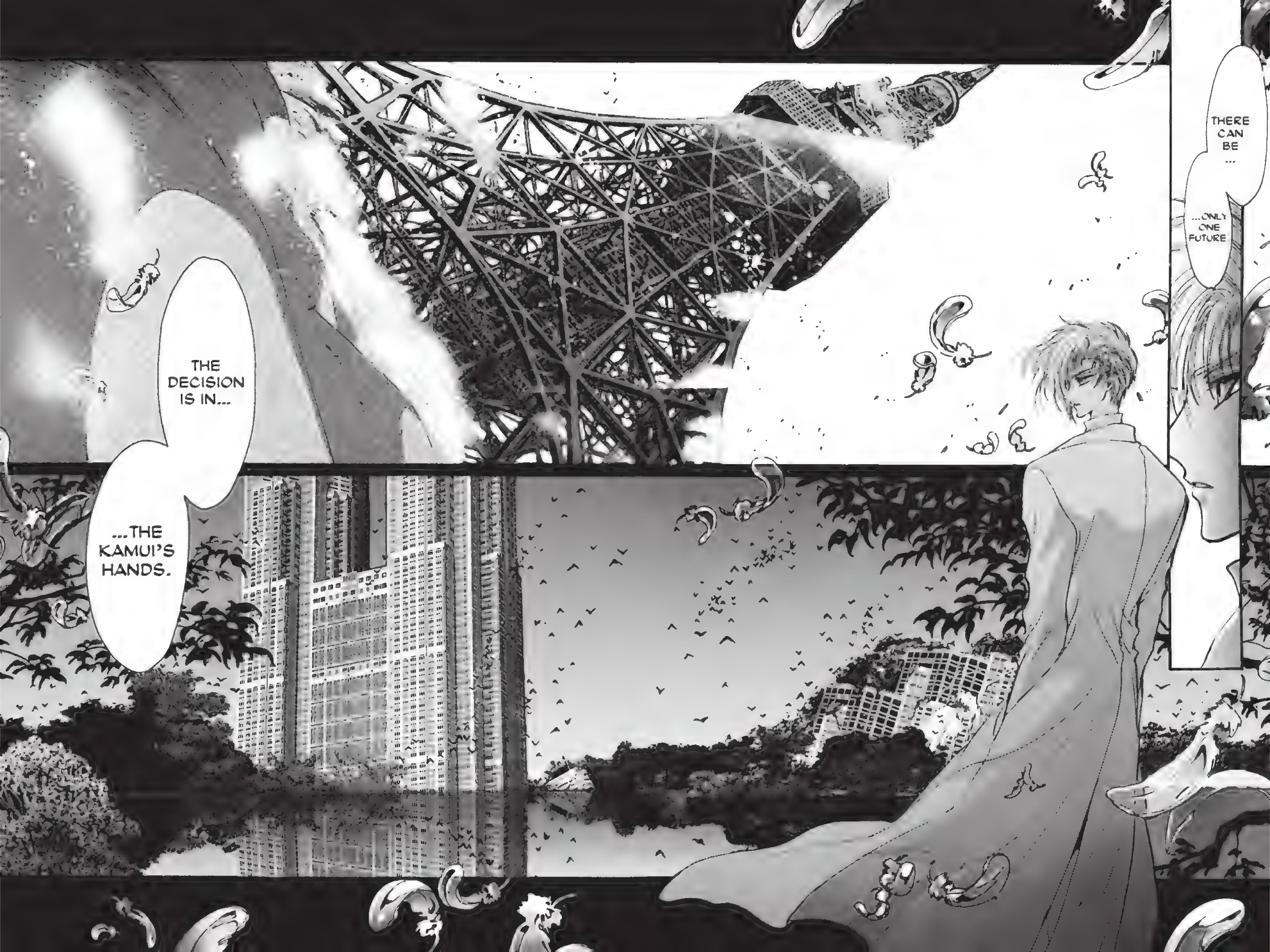

AND NOW I CAN SEE THE BEAUTIFUL GOLD OF YOUR EYES.

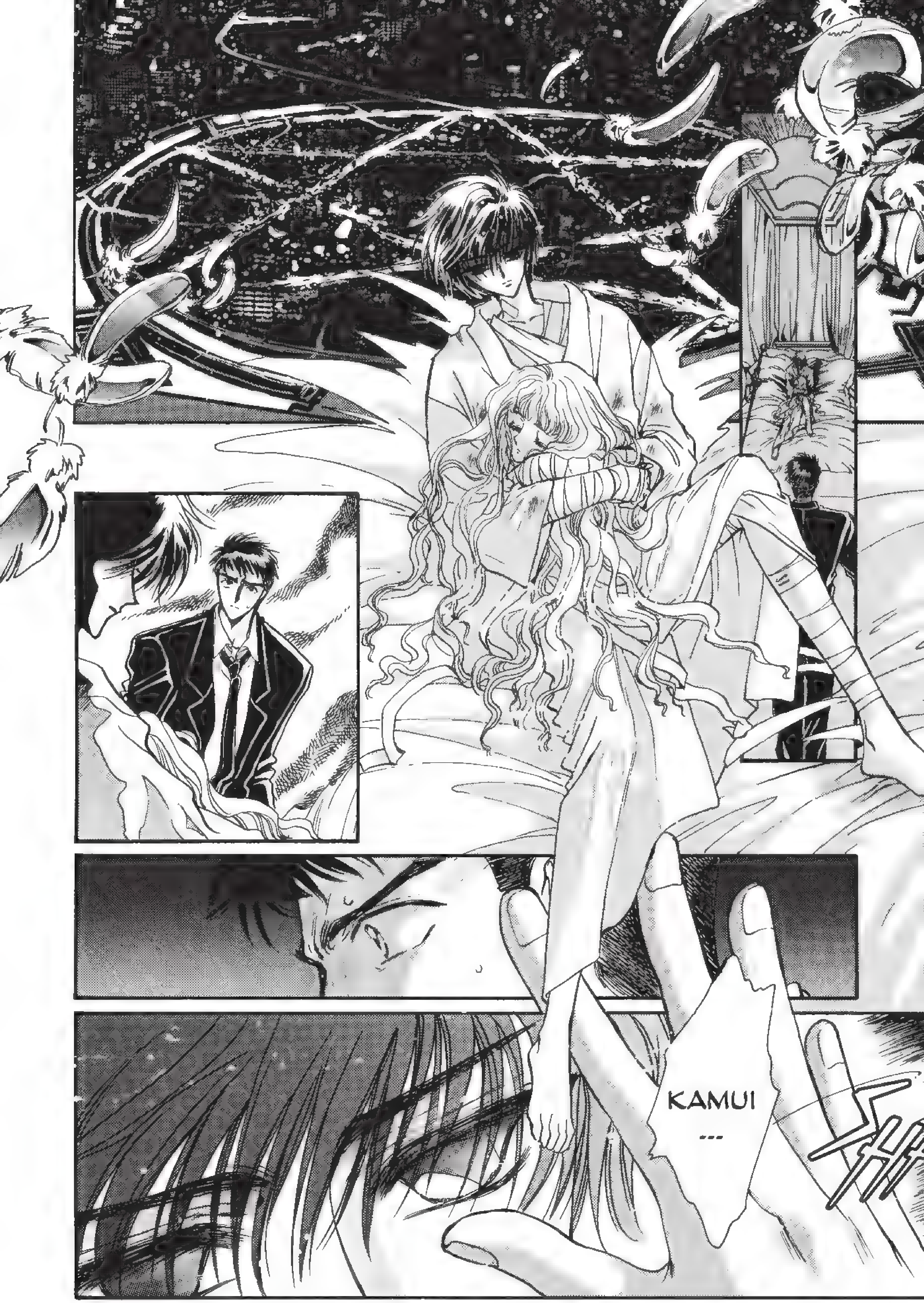

SW
...
PLEASE ...
...TELL MY BROTHER ...
...AND KAMUI...

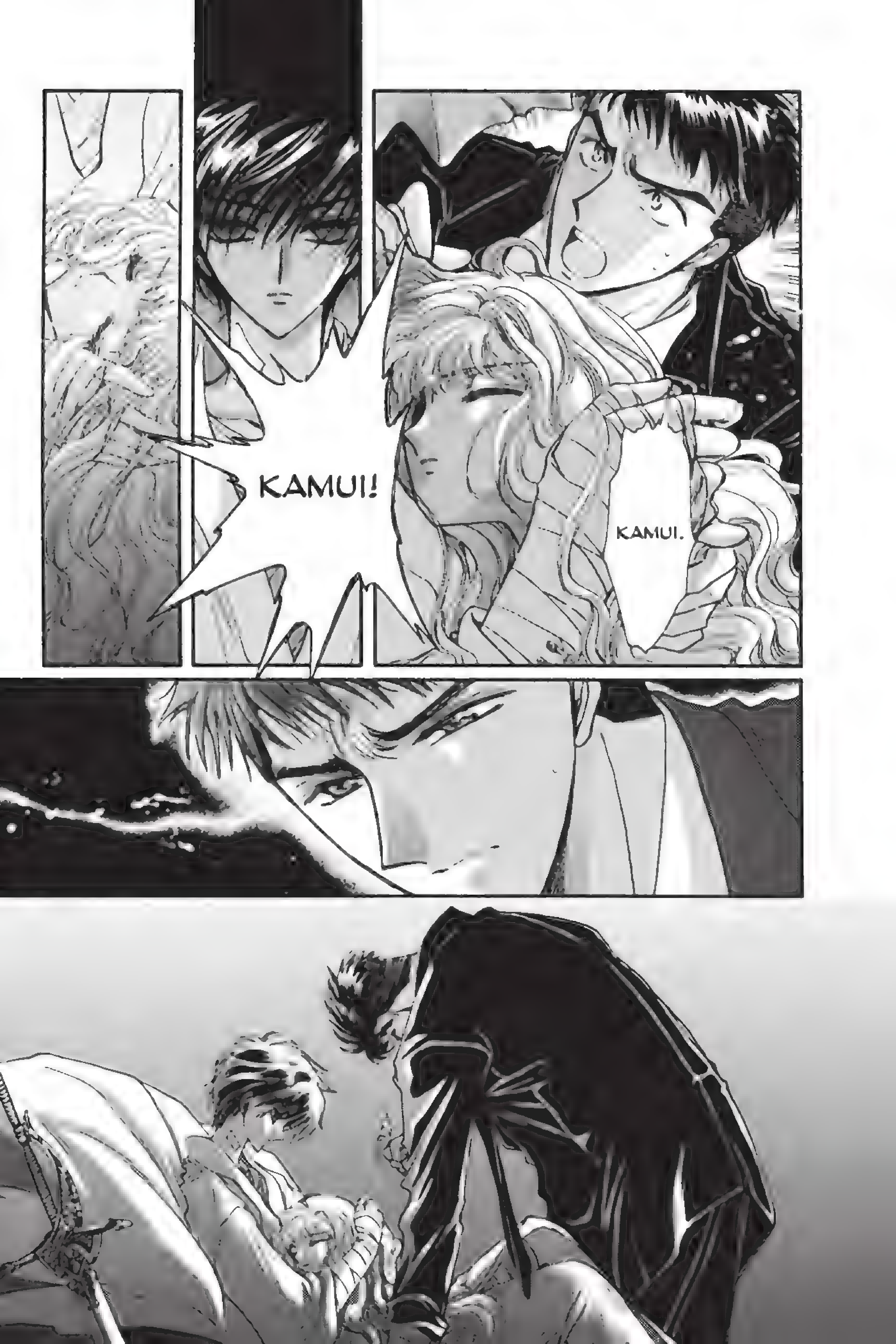

...THAT I LOVE THEM.
AND...

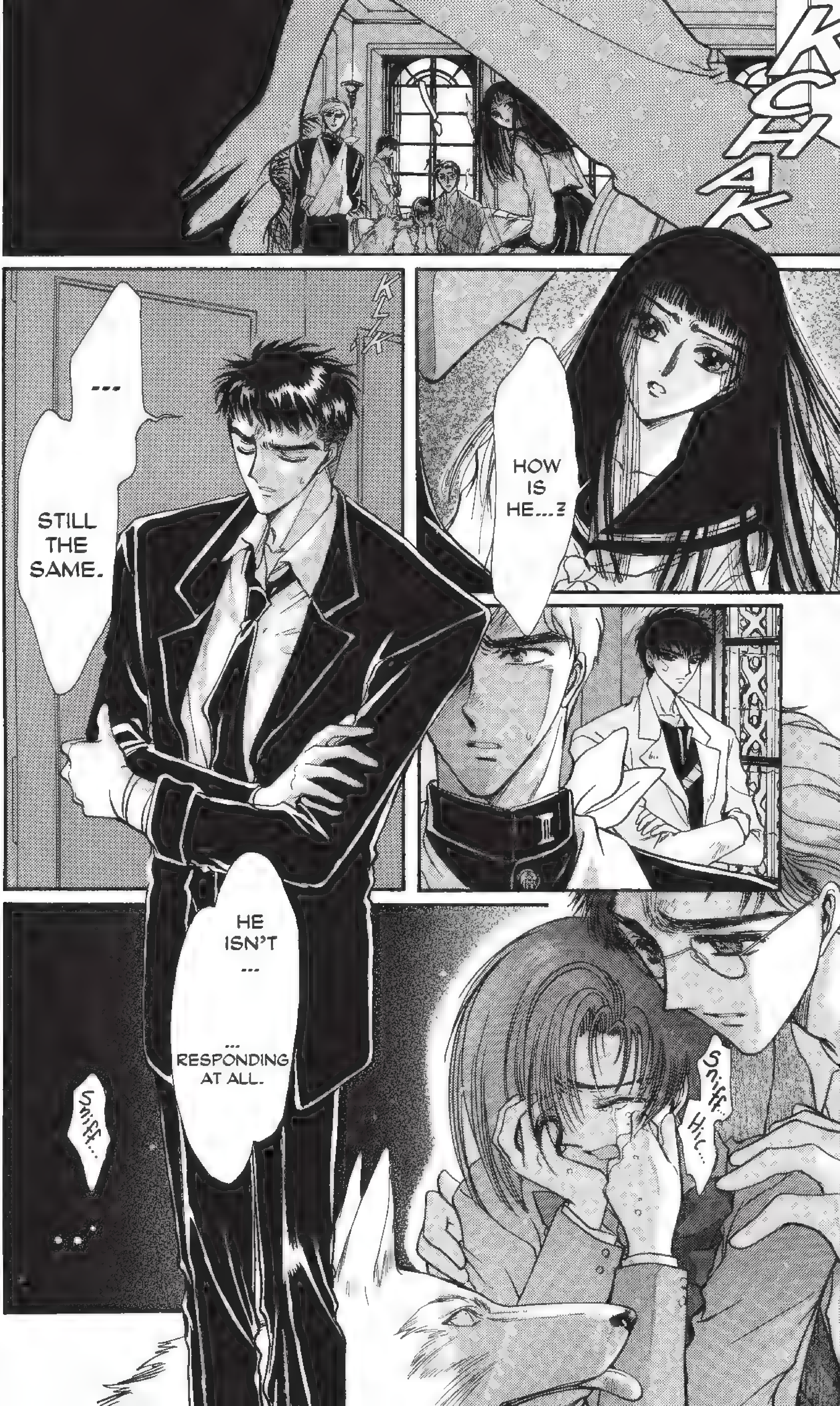

... TELL THEM ...
... THAT THE FUTURE ...
...HAS YET TO BE DECIDED.

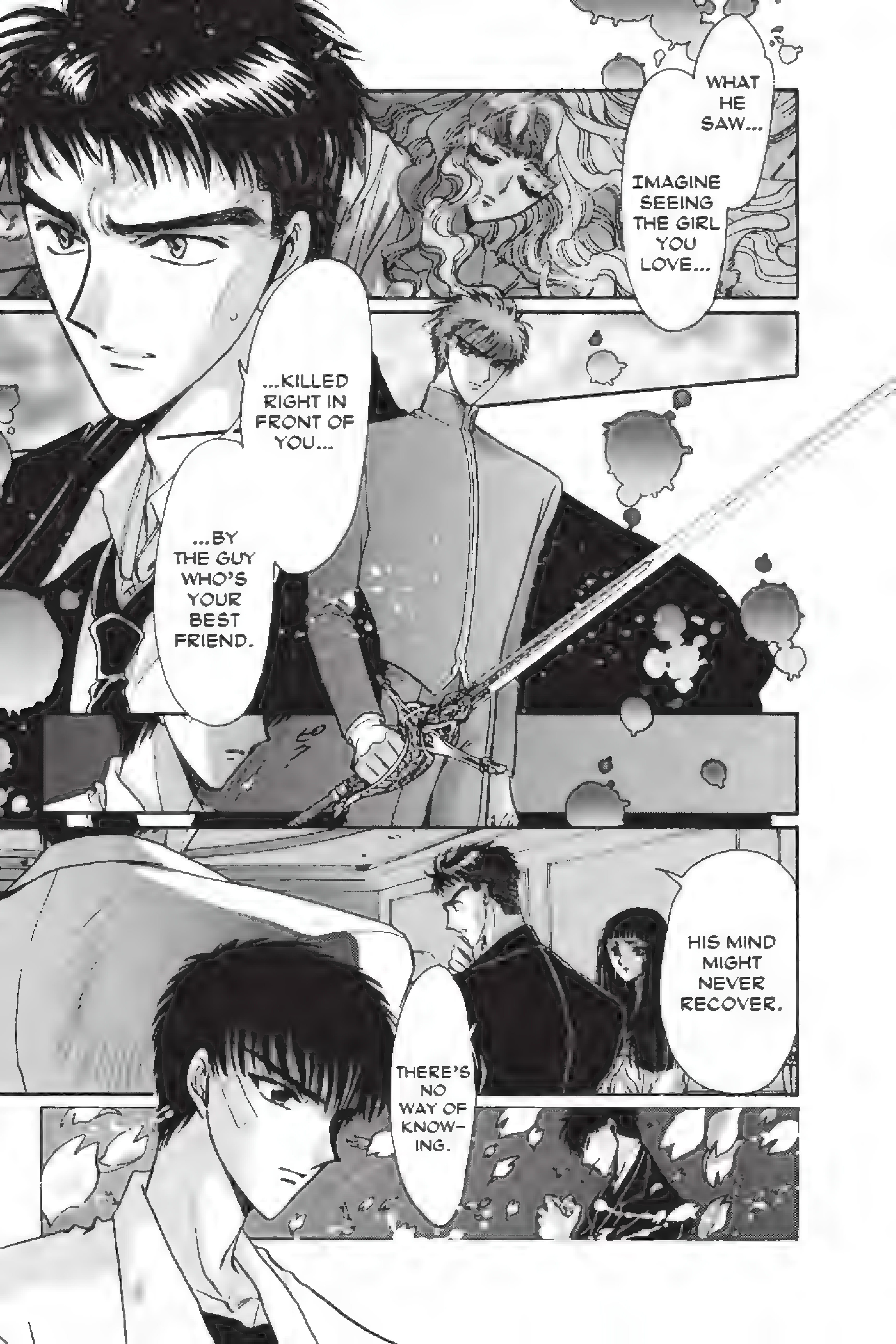

THE SEVEN SEALS...
... STRIVE FOR ONE FUTURE ...
... AND THE SEVEN ANGELS ...
...WORK TOWARD ANOTHER.
IF THE DRAGONS OF HEAVEN TRIUMPH...
... HUMANITY SURVIVES AND CONSUMES THE WORLD.
BUT IF THE DRAGONS OF EARTH WIN, THE WORKS OF MAN WILL CRUMBLE...
...AND THE WORLD WILL SURVIVE.

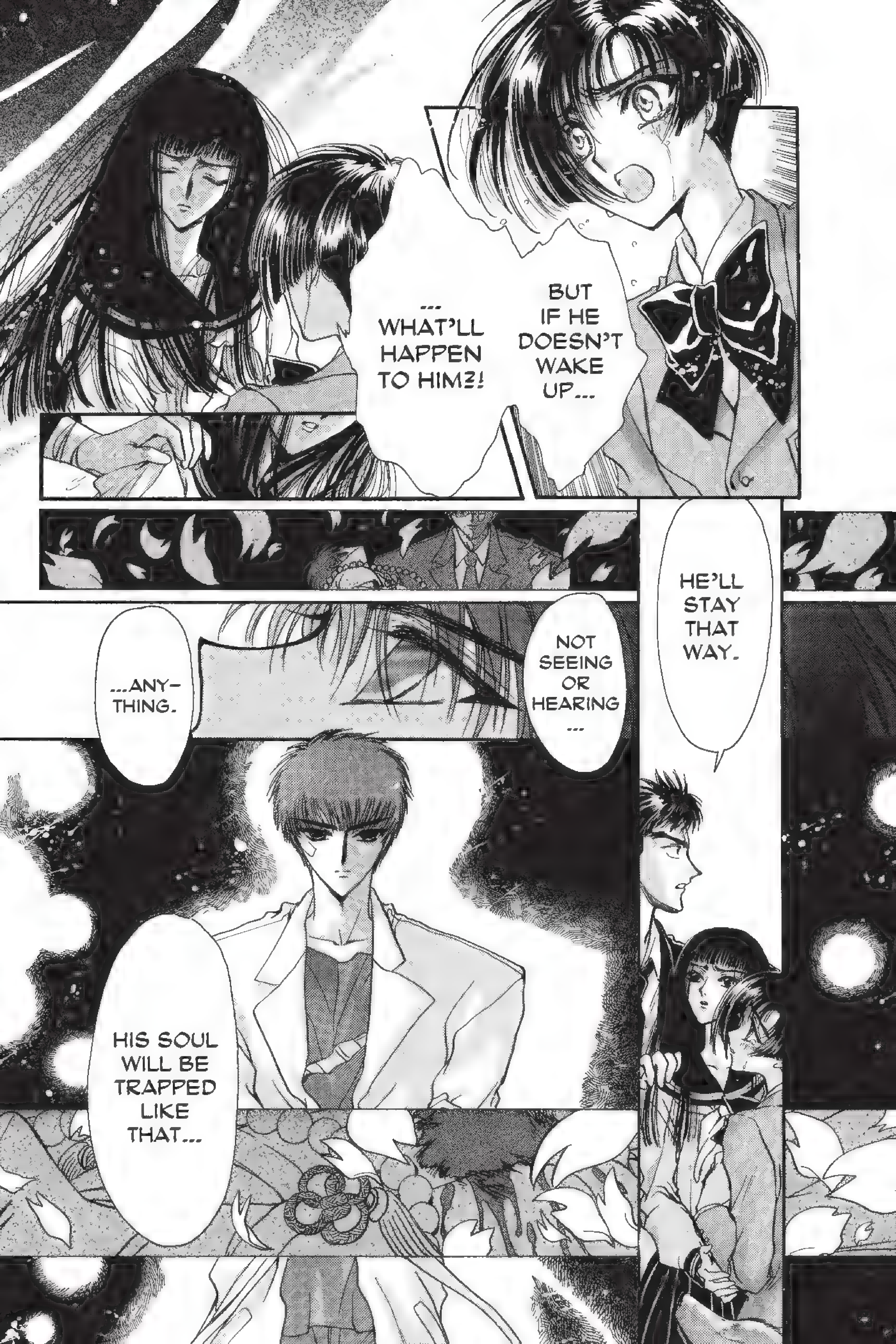

THERE CAN BE ...
...ONLY ONE FUTURE
THE DECISION IS IN...
...THE KAMUI'S HANDS.

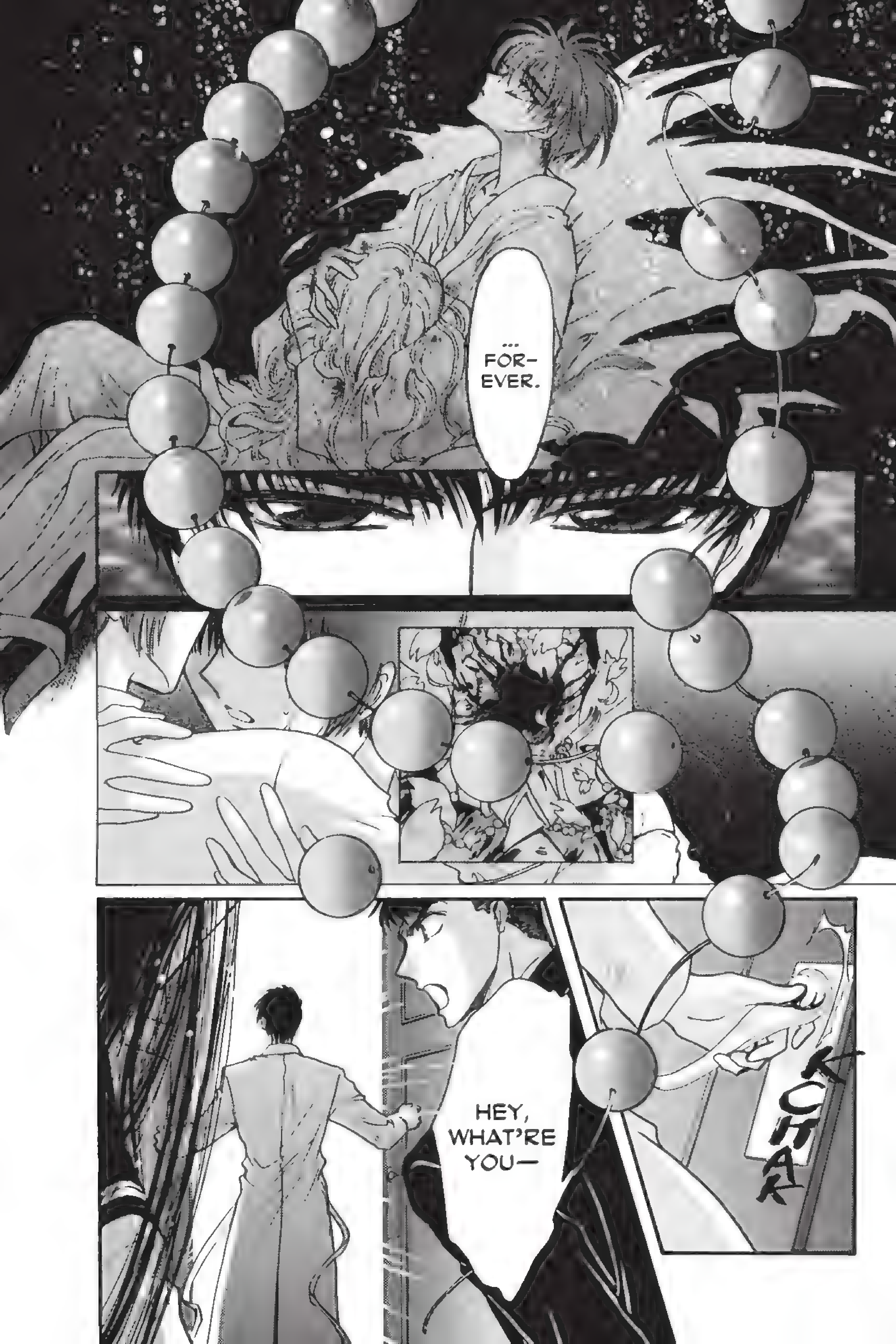

KAMUI

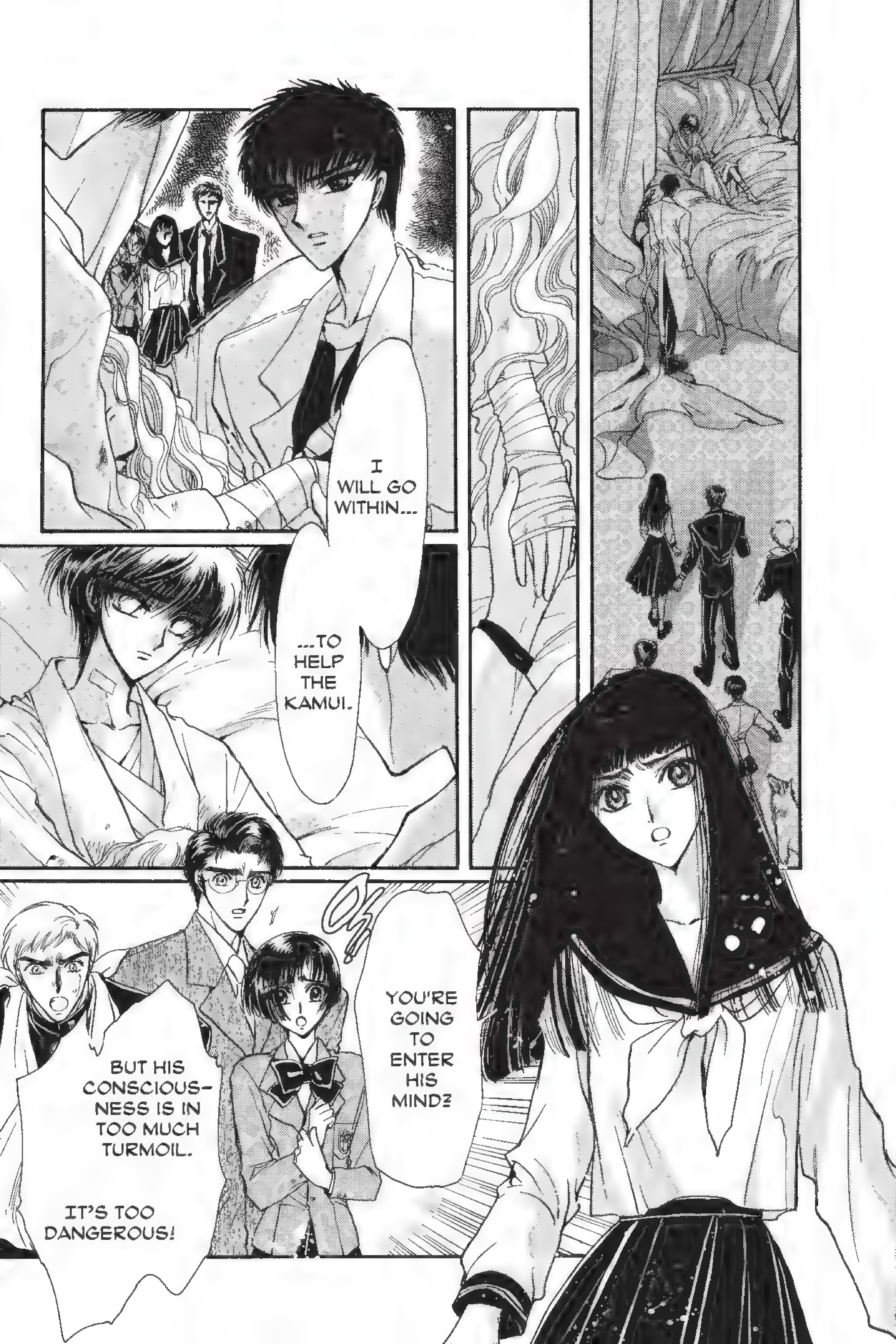

KAMUI.
KAMUI!

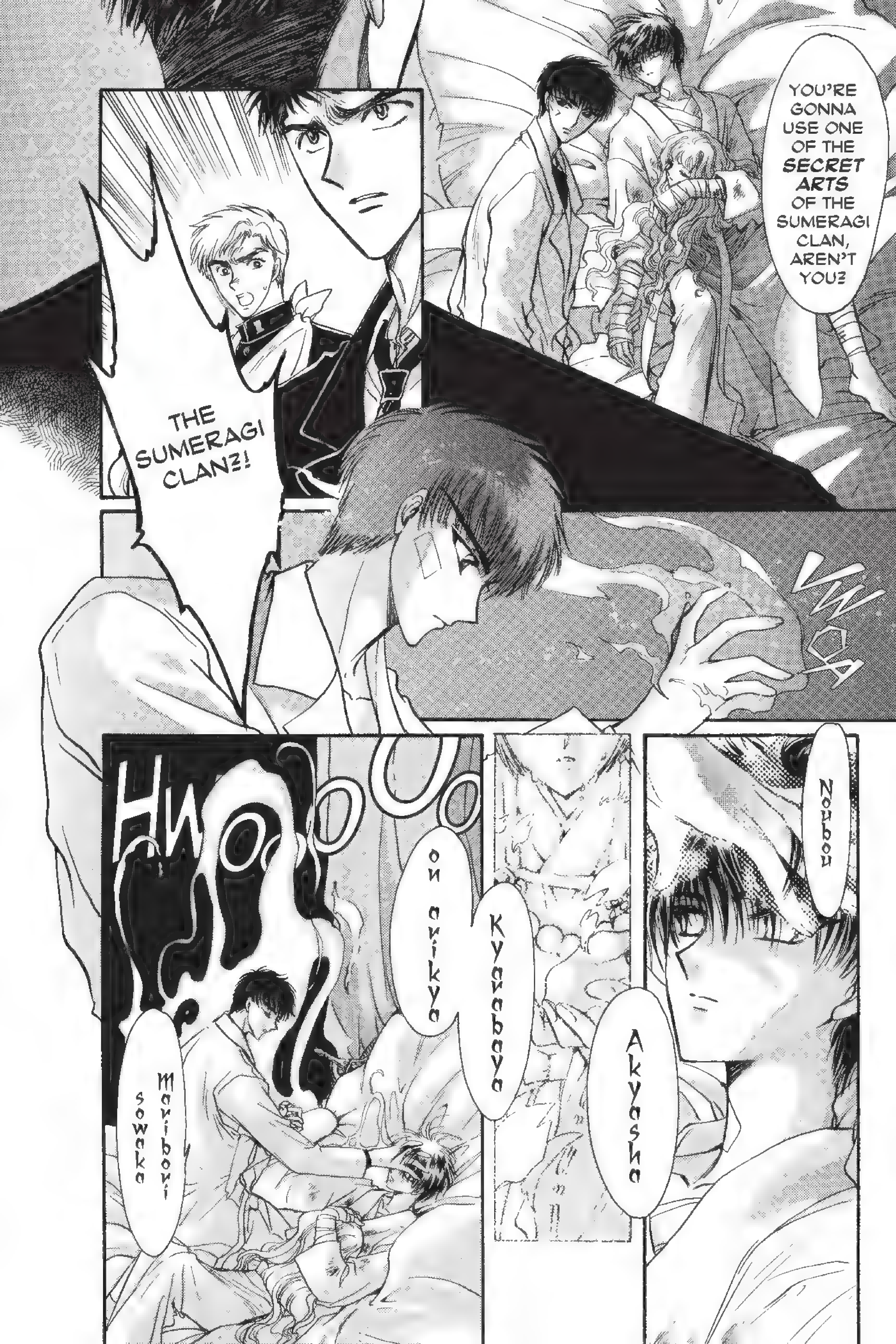

KACHAK
HOW IS HE...?
KLIK
...
STILL THE SAME.
Sniff... Hic...
HE ISN'T ...
... RESPONDING AT ALL.
Sniff...
...

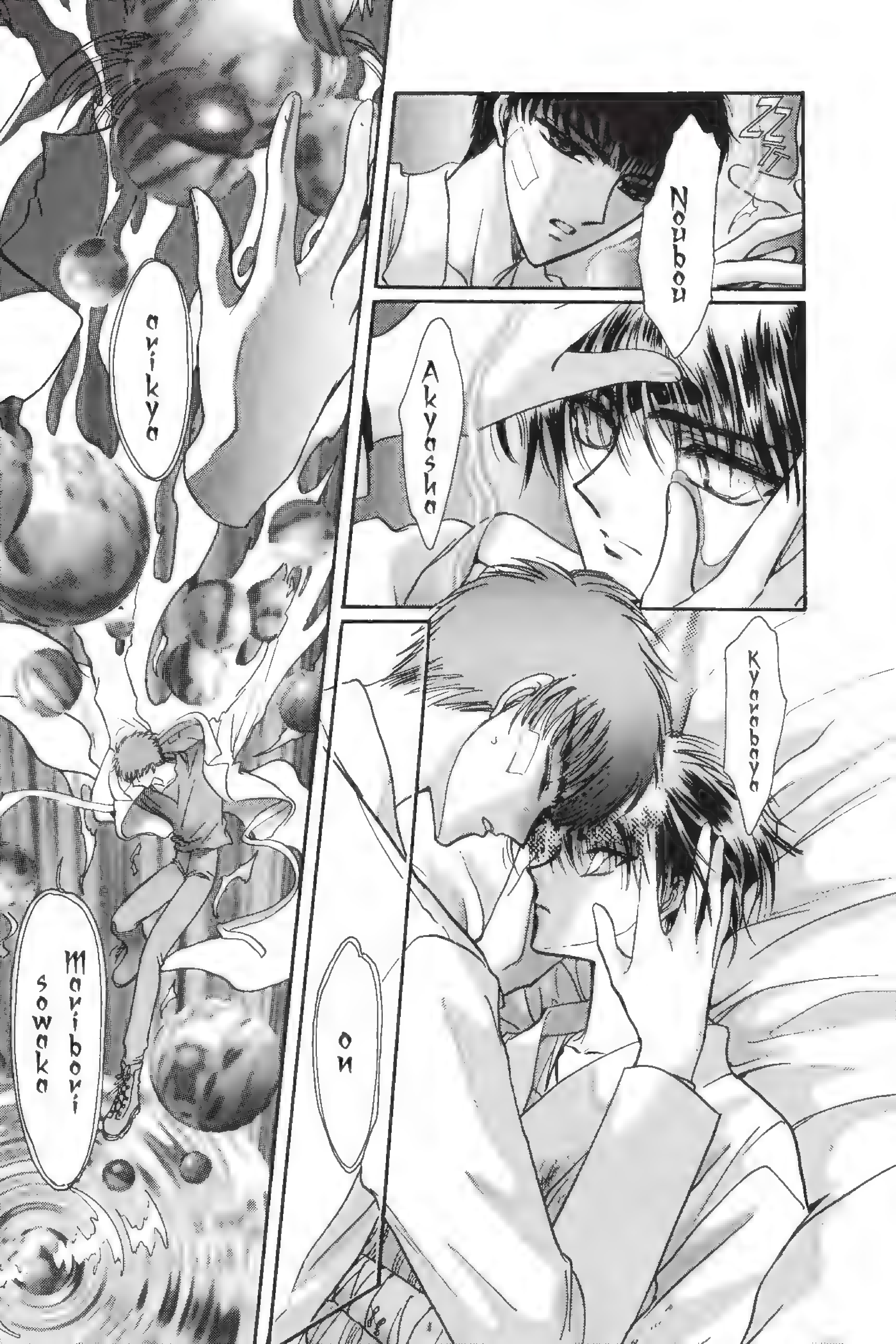

WHAT HE SAW...
IMAGINE SEEING THE GIRL YOU LOVE...
...KILLED RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU...
...BY THE GUY WHO'S YOUR BEST FRIEND.
HIS MIND MIGHT NEVER RECOVER.
THERE'S NO WAY OF KNOWING.

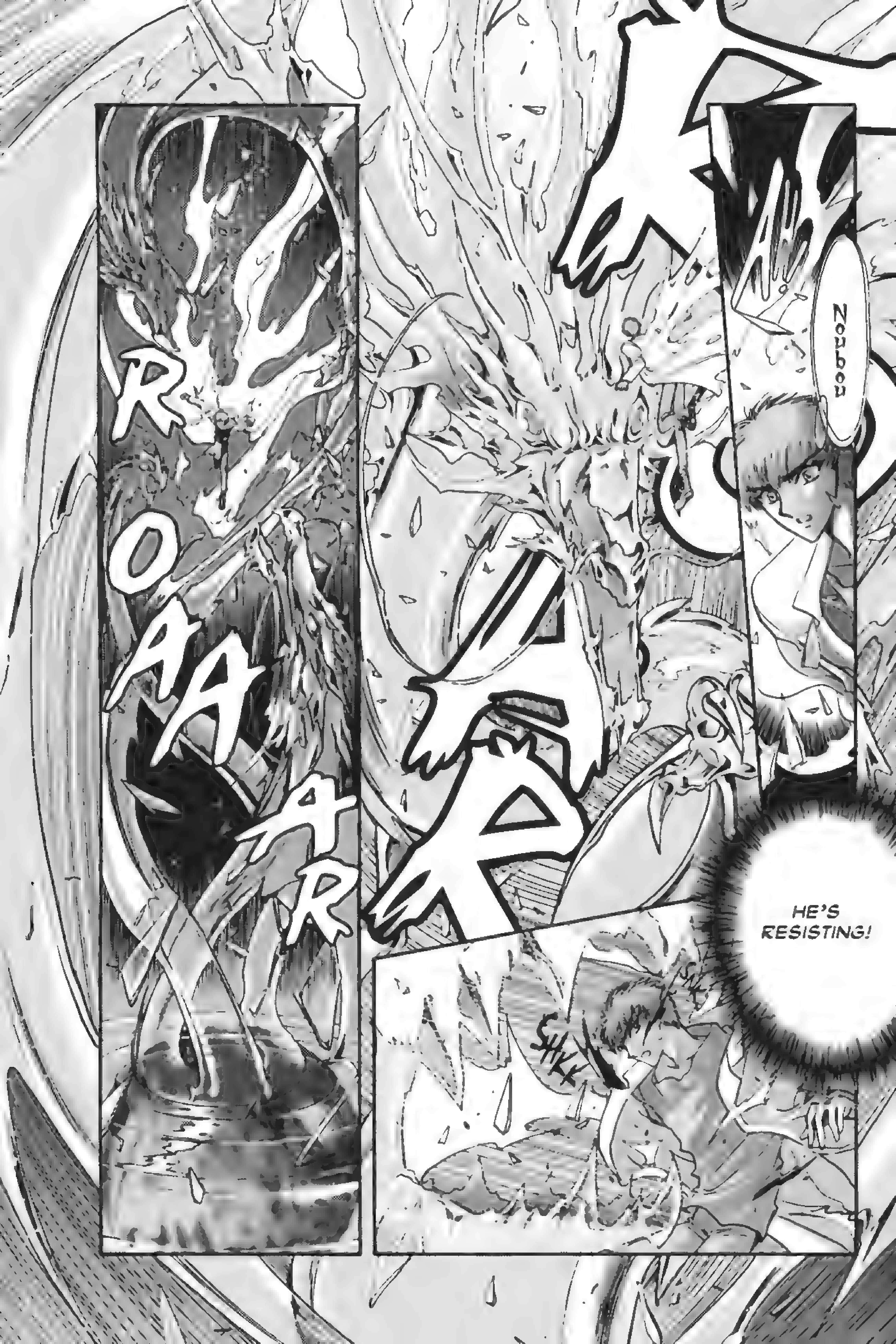

BUT IF HE DOESN'T WAKE UP...
...WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO HIM?!
HE'LL STAY THAT WAY.
NOT SEEING OR HEARING...
...ANY-THING.
HIS SOUL WILL BE TRAPPED LIKE THAT...

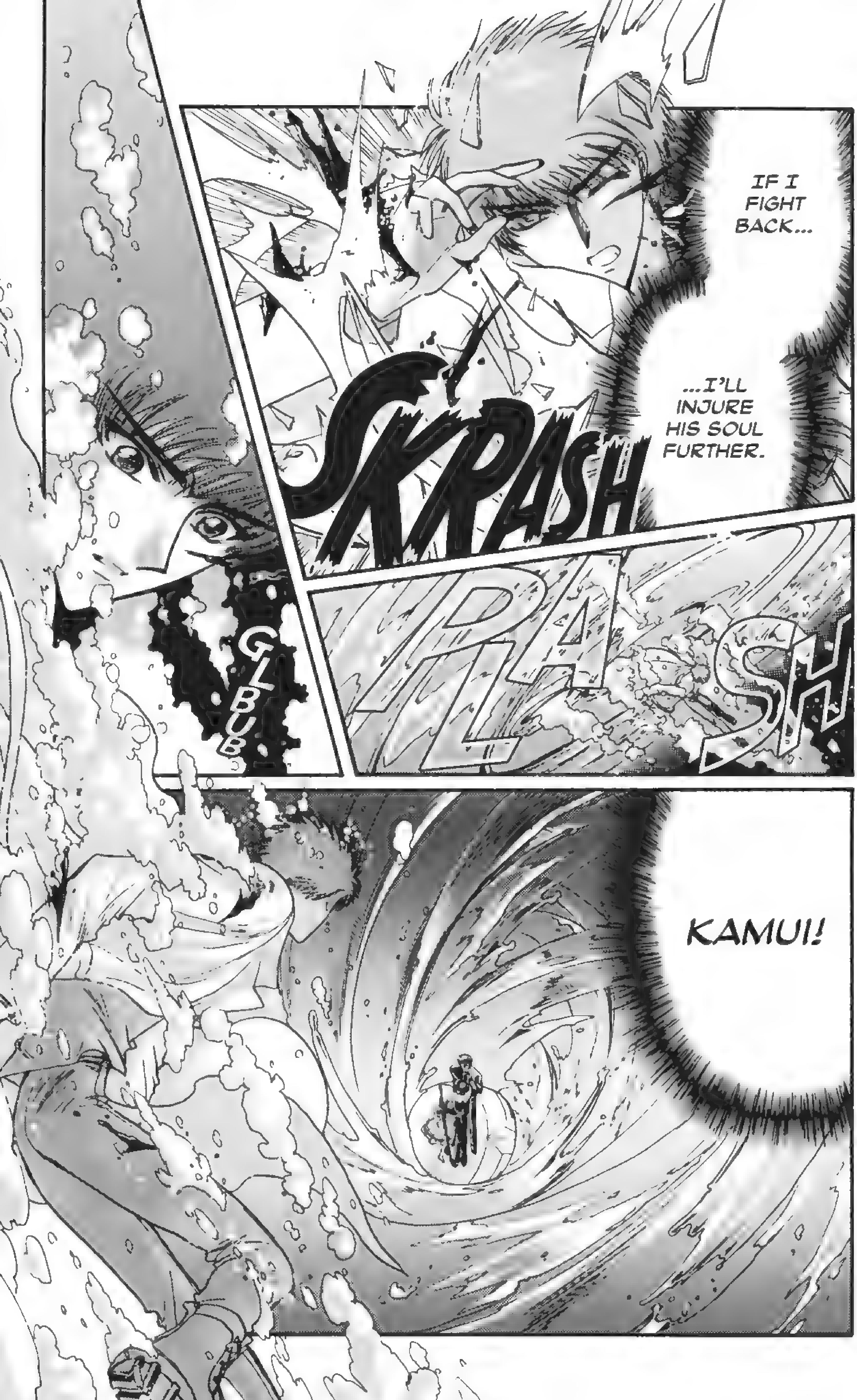

...FOR-EVER.
KCHAK
HEY, WHAT'RE YOU—

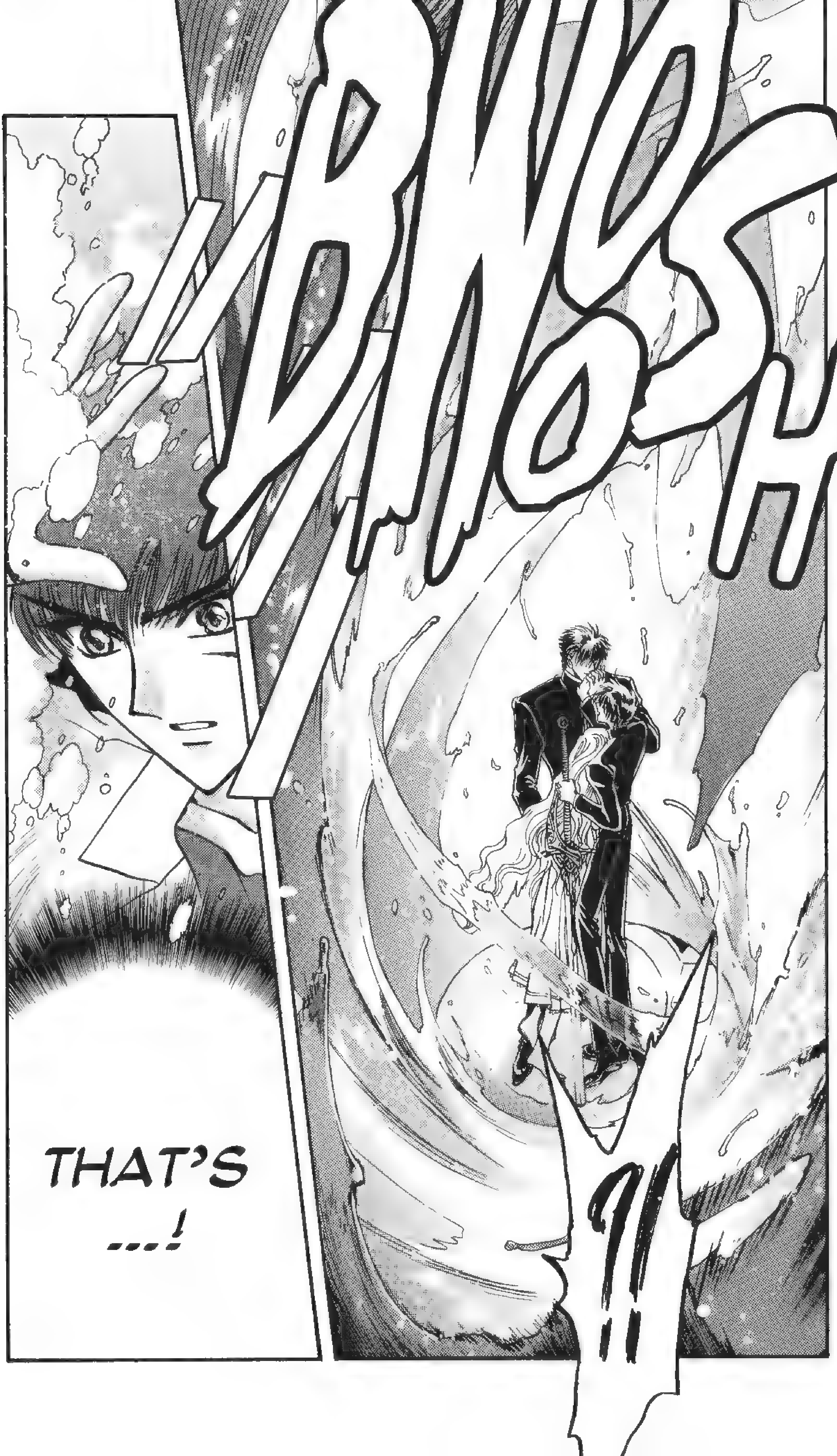

I WILL GO WITHIN...
...TO HELP THE KAMUI.
Oh!
YOU'RE GOING TO ENTER HIS MIND?
BUT HIS CONSCIOUSNESS IS IN TOO MUCH TURMOIL.
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!

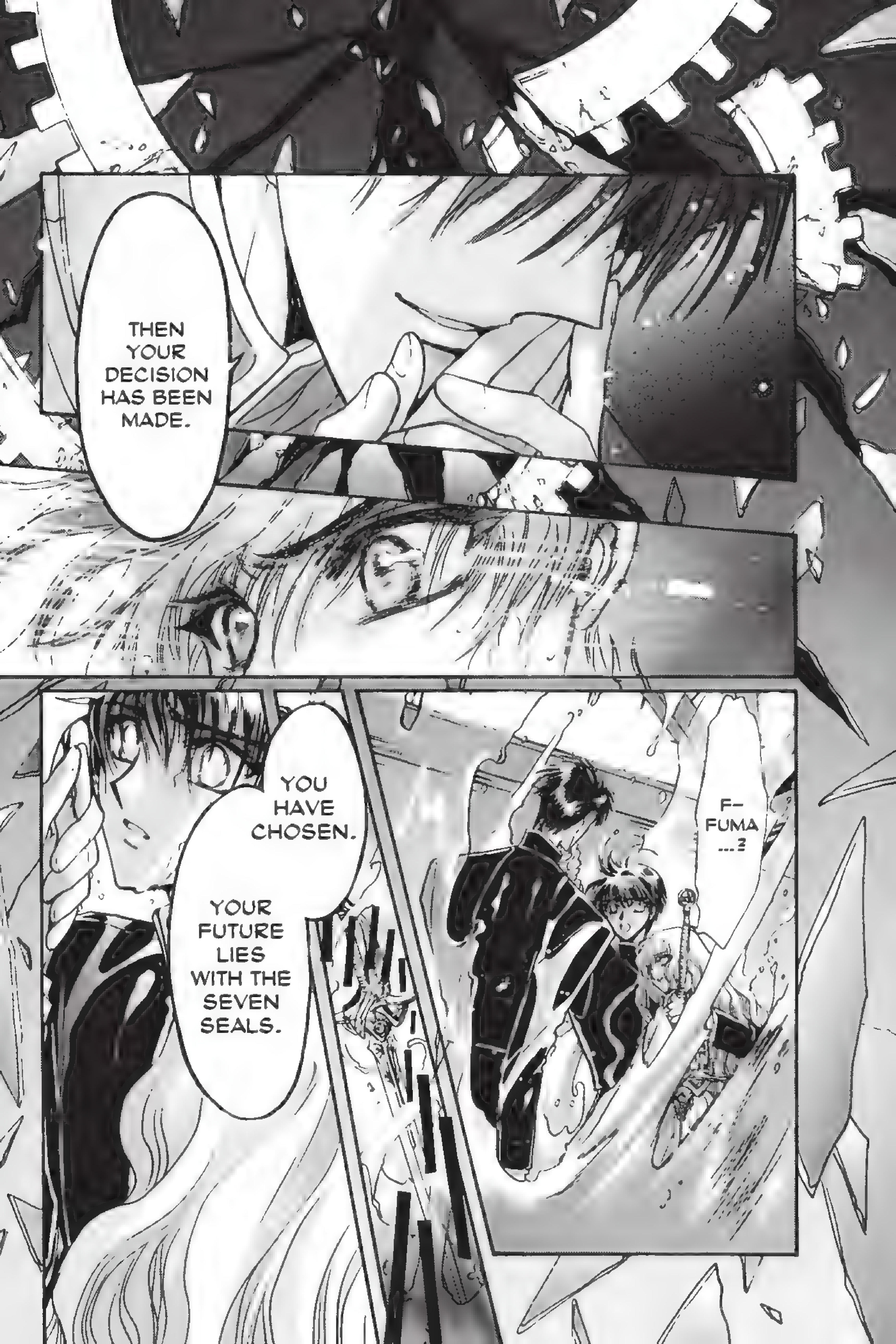

YOU'RE GONNA USE ONE OF THE **SECRET ARTS** OF THE SUMERAGI CLAN, AREN'T YOU?
THE SUMERAGI CLAN?!
VWOA
Noubou
Akyasha
Kyarabaya
on arikya
Maribori sowaka
HWOOO

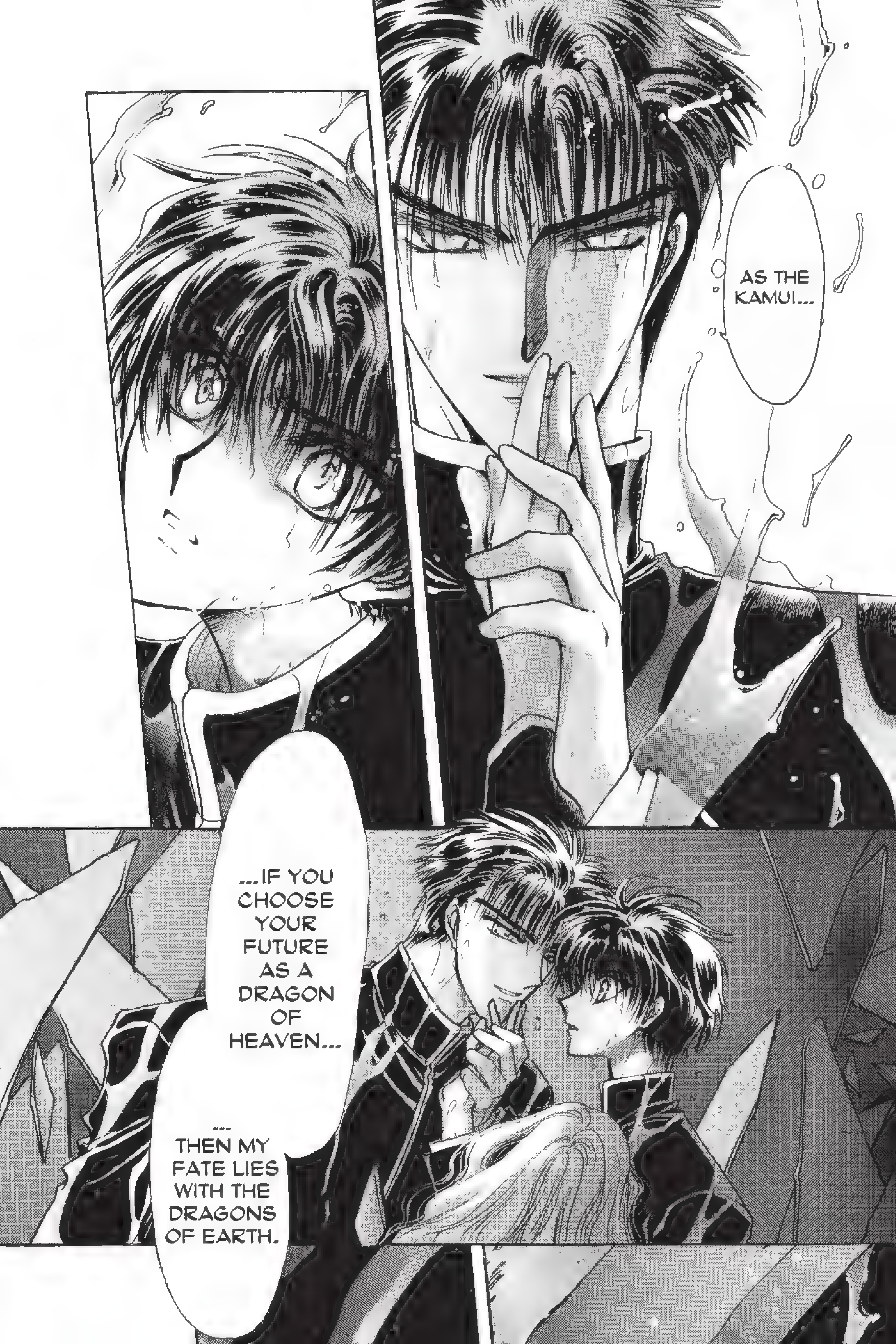

ZZZ
Noubou
Akyasha
Kyarabaya
On
arikya
maribori sowaka

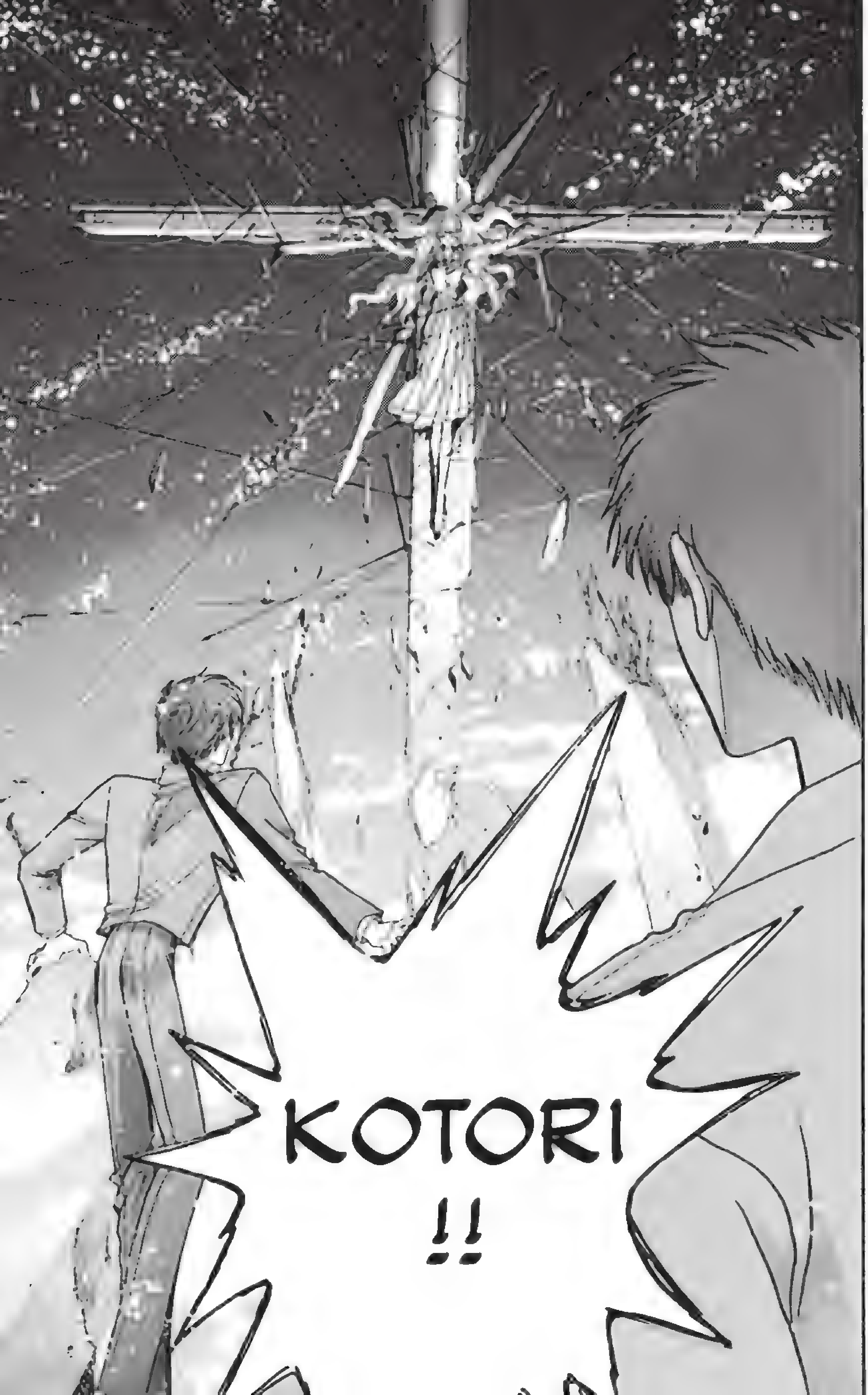

Noubou
ROAAAR
HE'S RESISTING!
SHK
SHKK

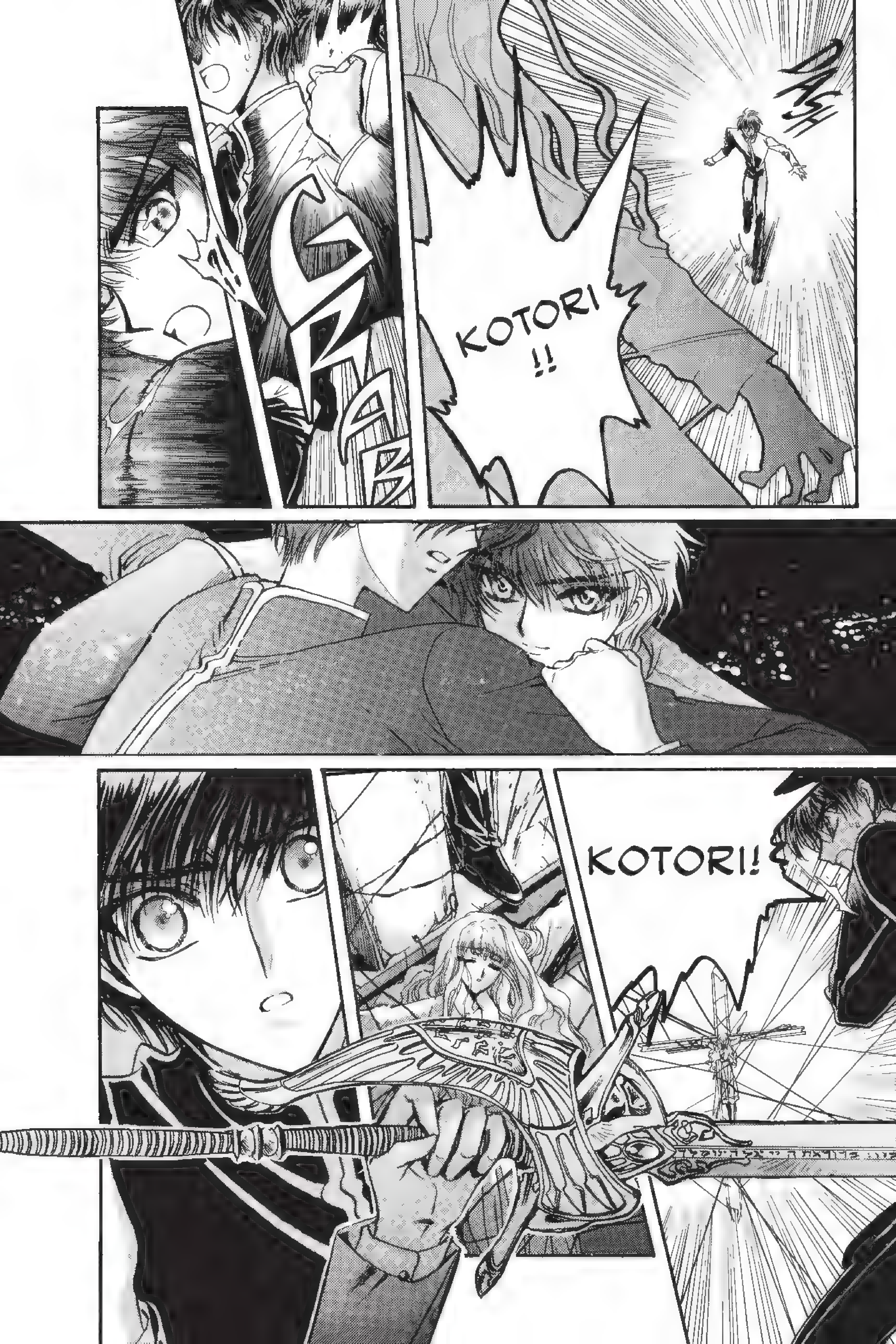

IF I FIGHT BACK...
...I'LL INJURE HIS SOUL FURTHER.
SKRASH
SPLASH
GLBUB
KAMUI!

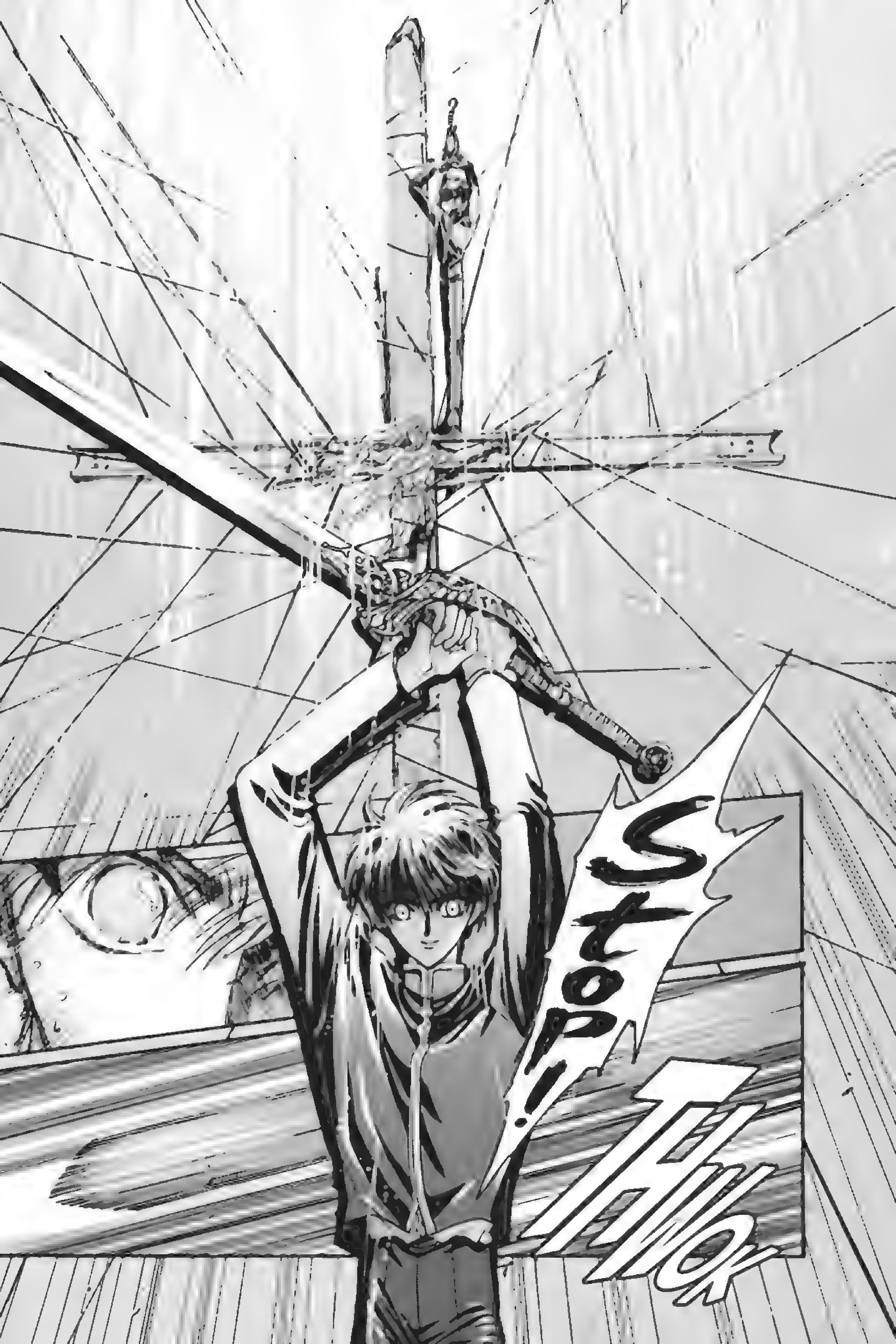

WHOOSH
?!!
THAT'S ...!

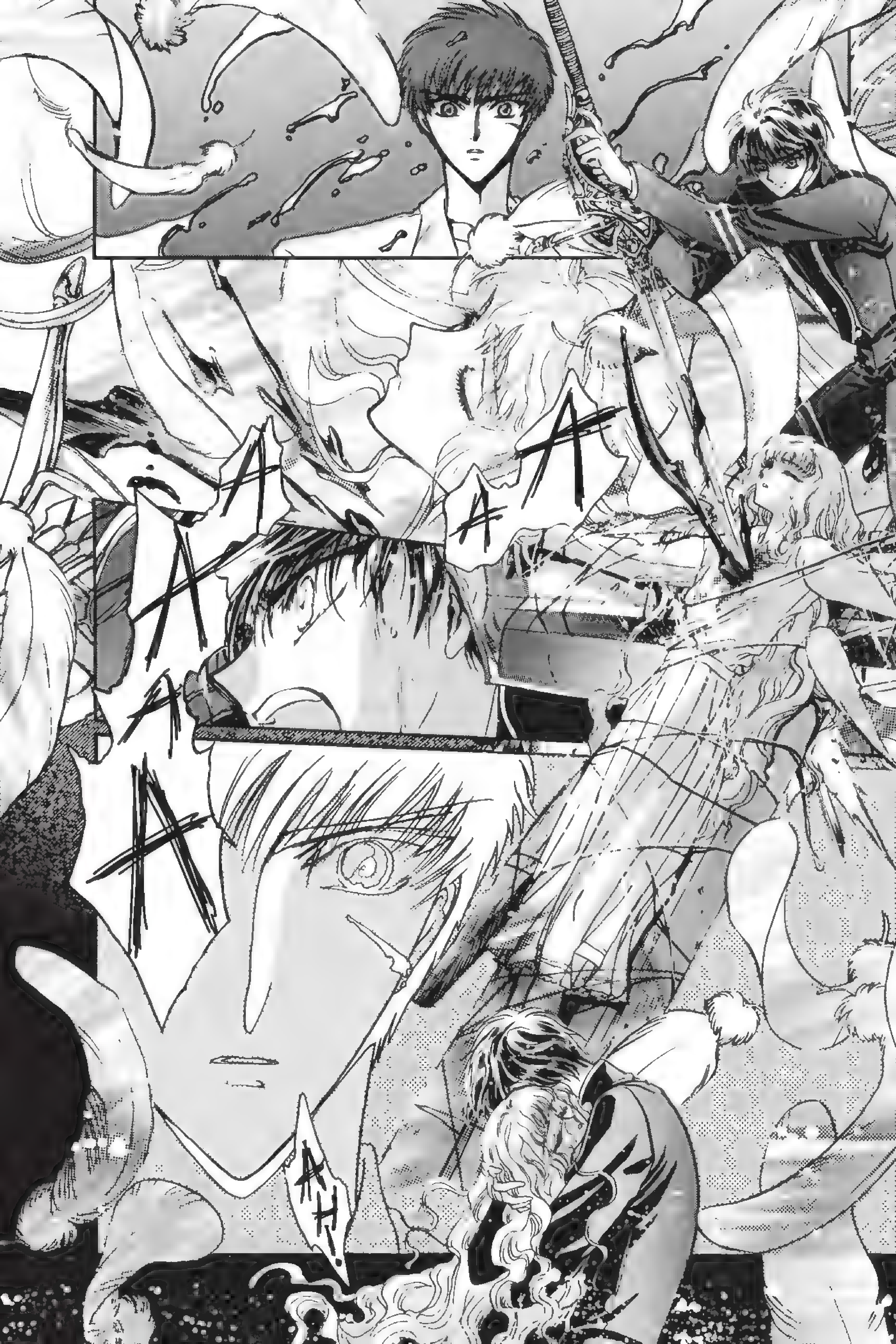

THEN YOUR DECISION HAS BEEN MADE.
F-FUMA...?
YOU HAVE CHOSEN.
YOUR FUTURE LIES WITH THE SEVEN SEALS.

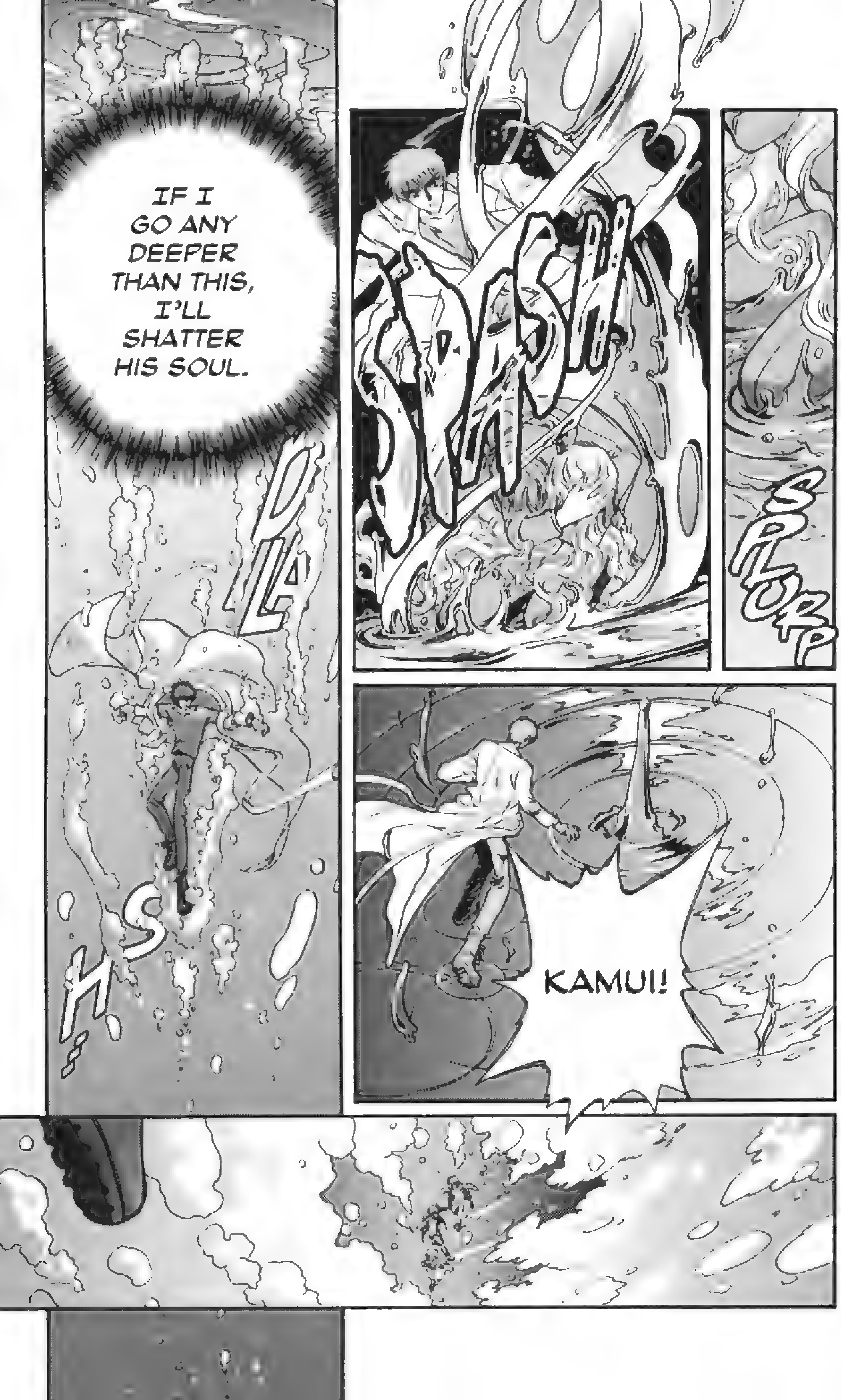

AS THE KAMUI...
...IF YOU CHOOSE YOUR FUTURE AS A DRAGON OF HEAVEN...
...THEN MY FATE LIES WITH THE DRAGONS OF EARTH.

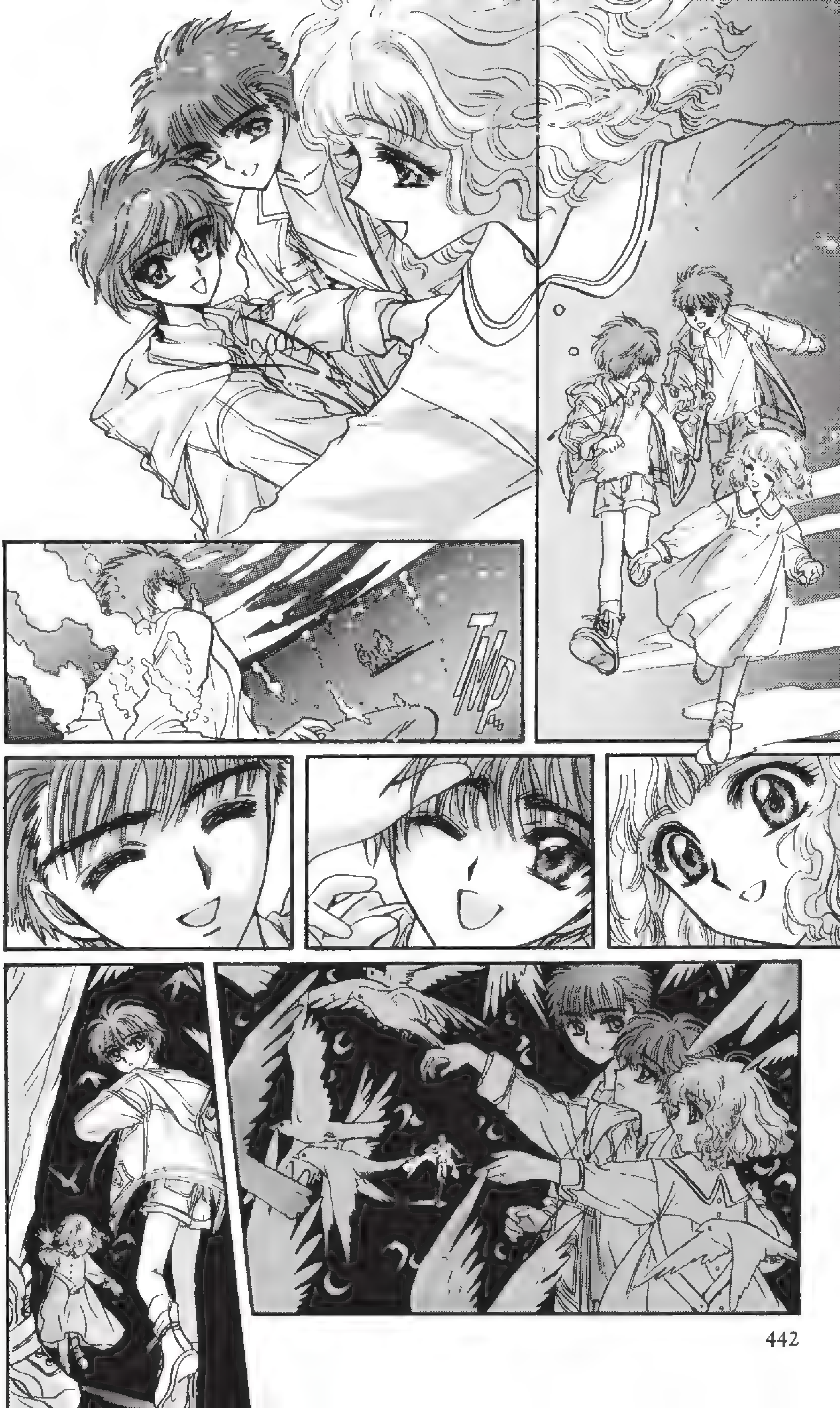

KOTORI
!!

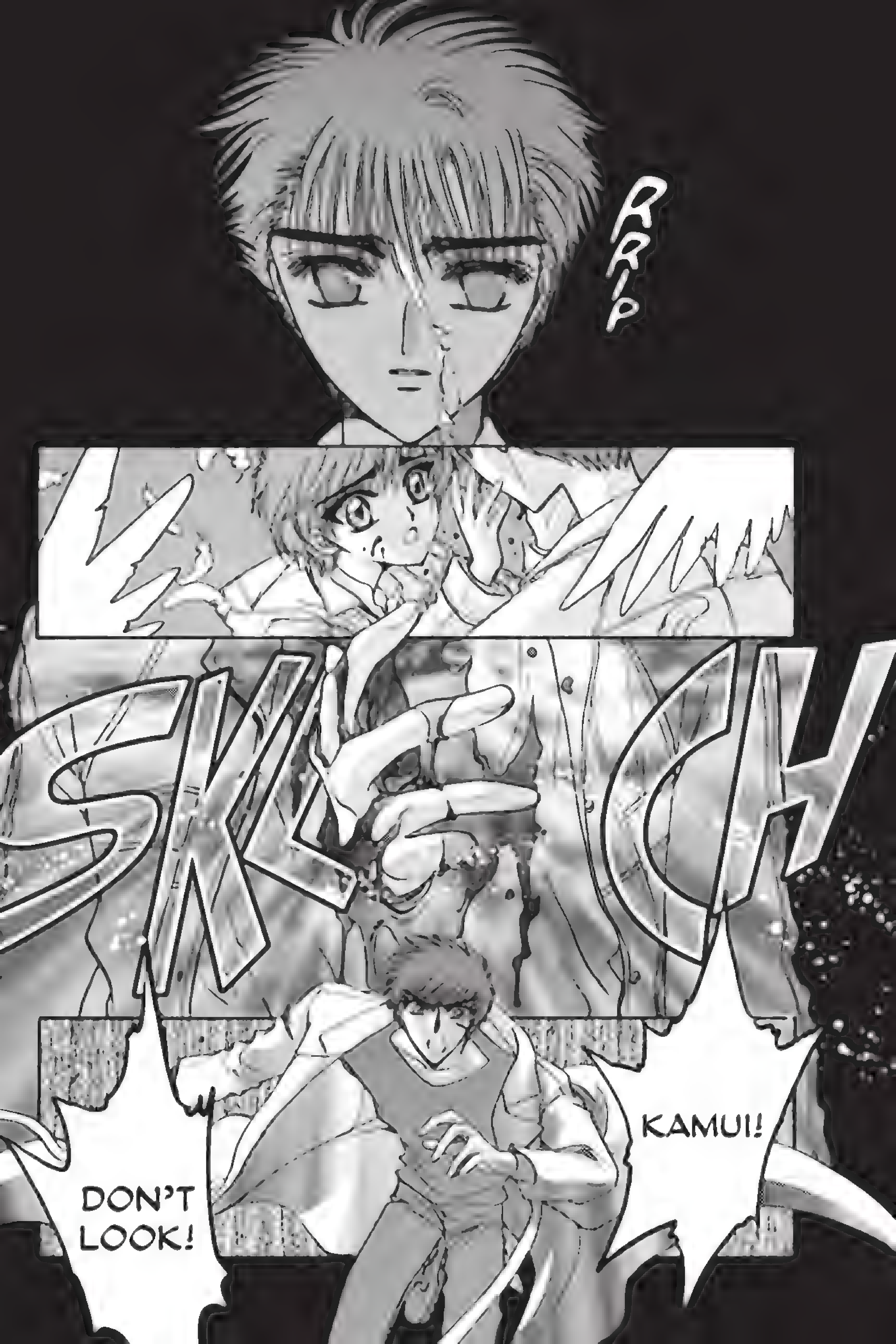

DASH
KOTORI !!
GRAB
!!
KOTORI!

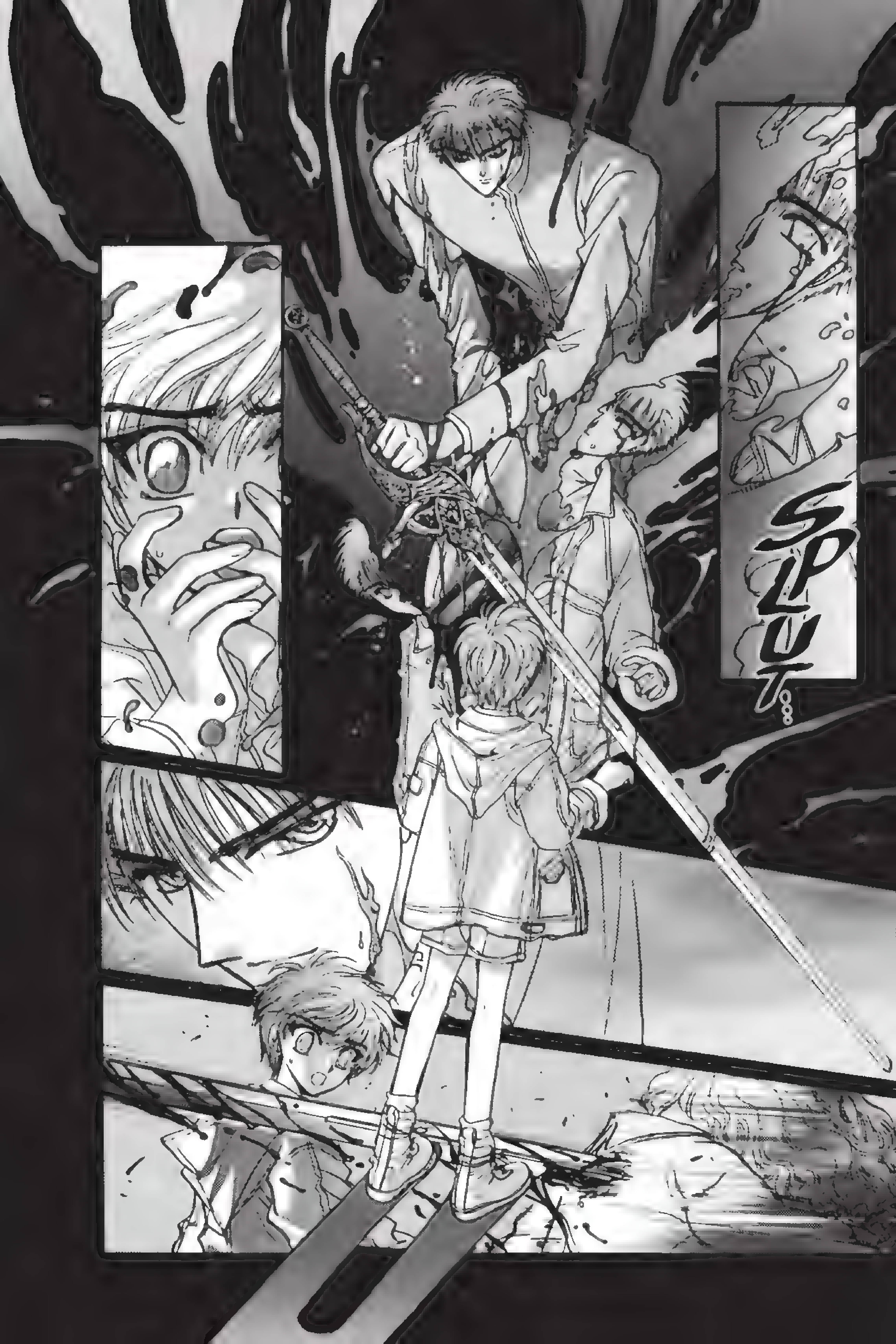

Stop!!
THUNK

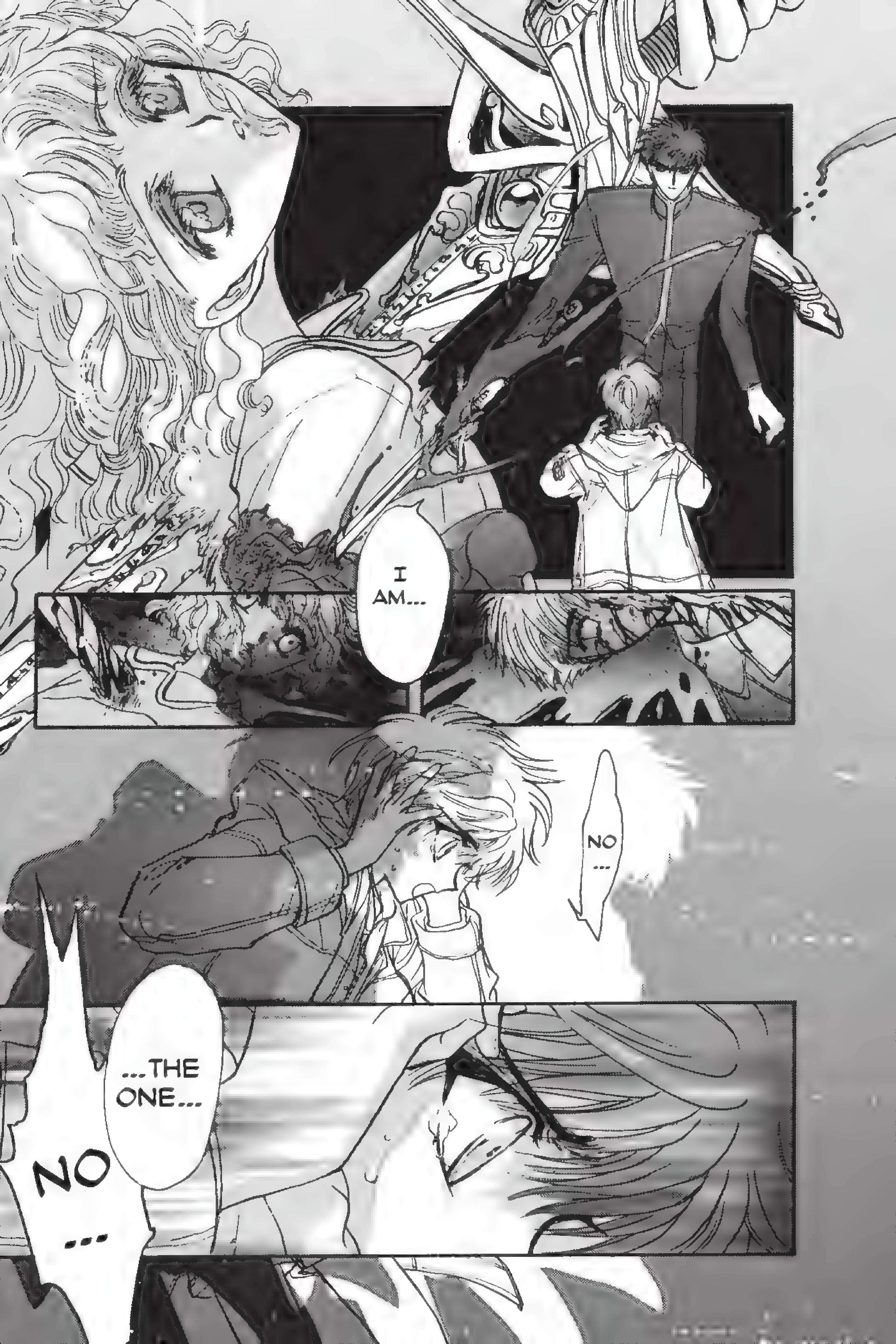

AAAAAAAA
AH!

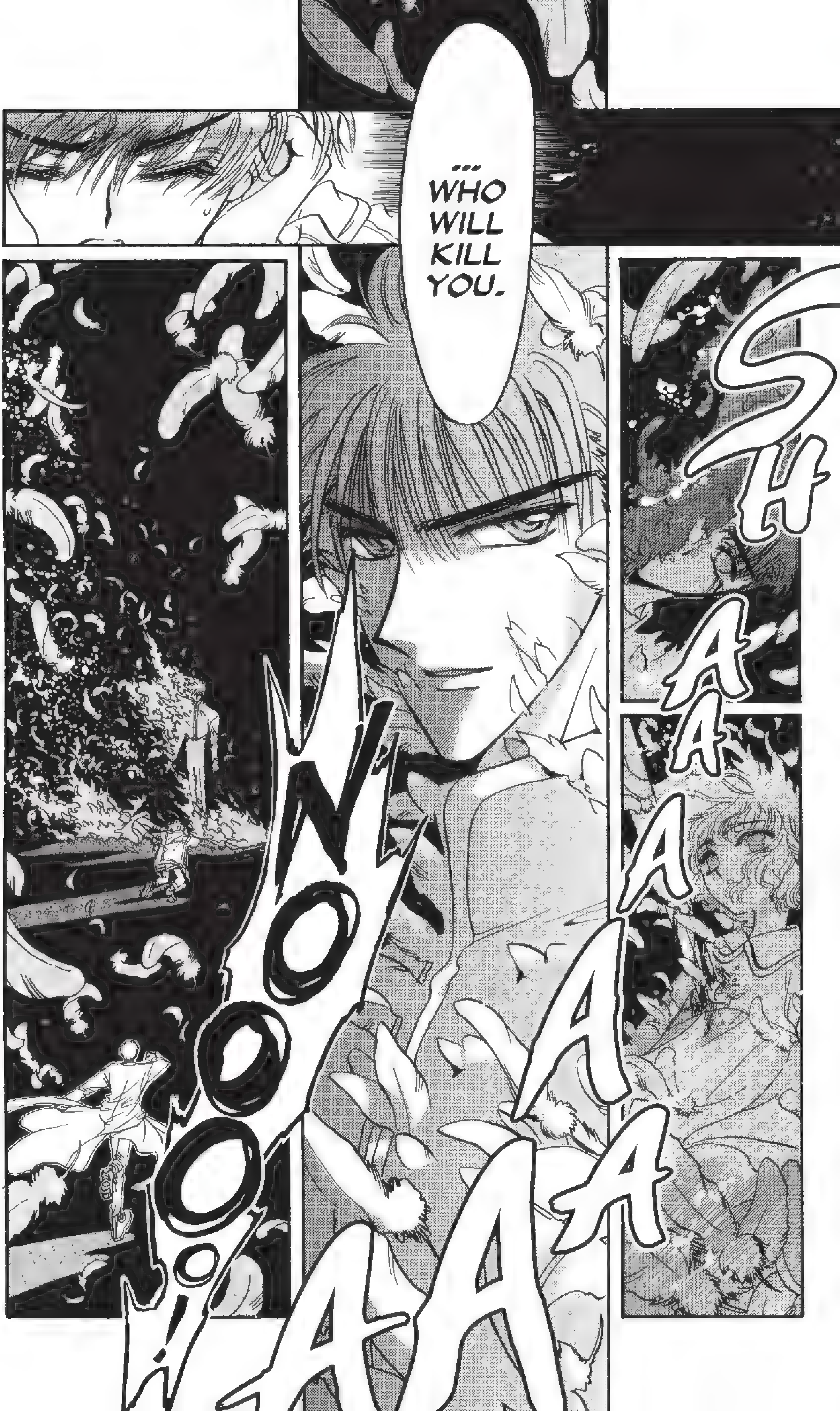

SPLASH
SPLORP
IF I GO ANY DEEPER THAN THIS, I'LL SHATTER HIS SOUL.
KAMUI!

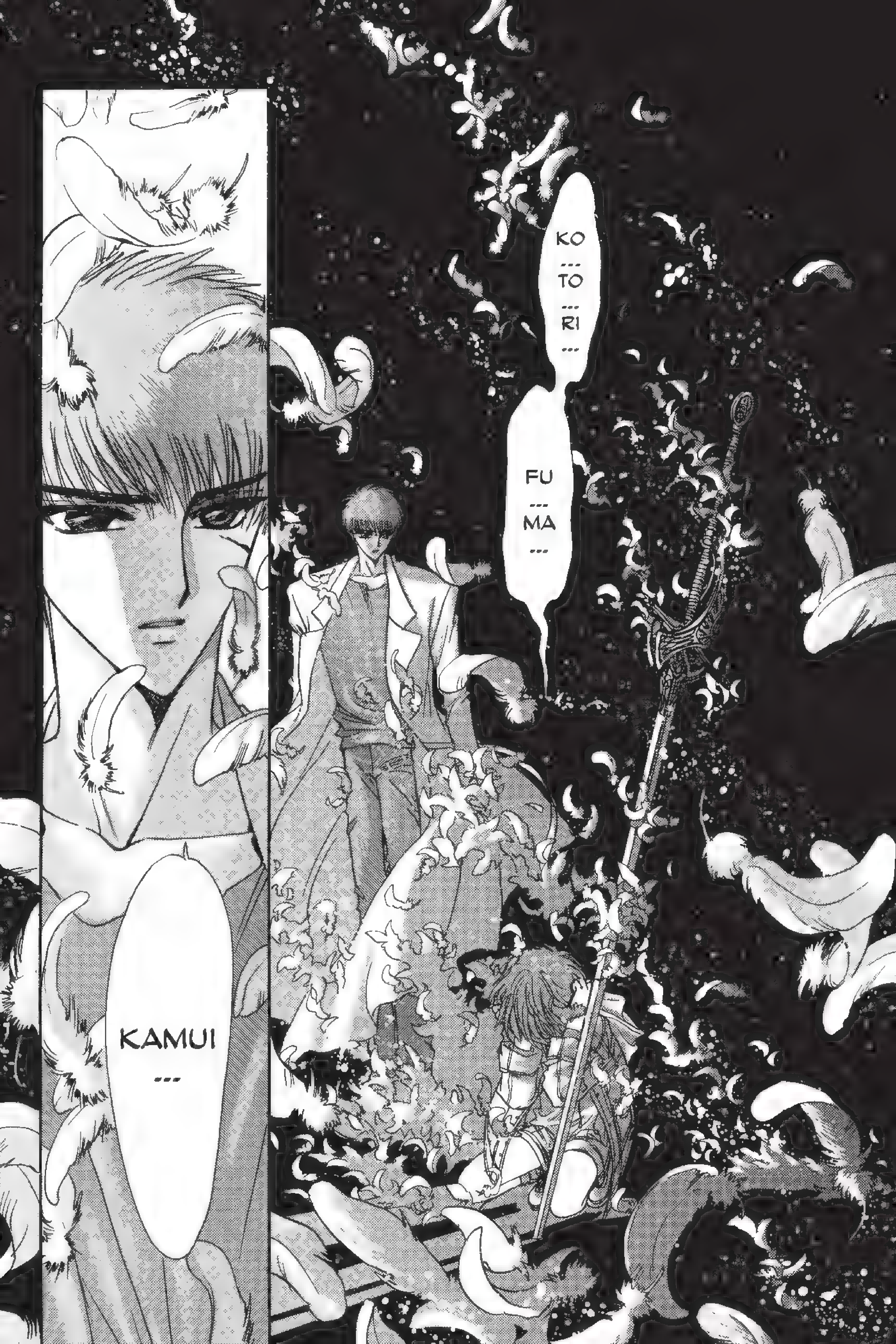

TMP..

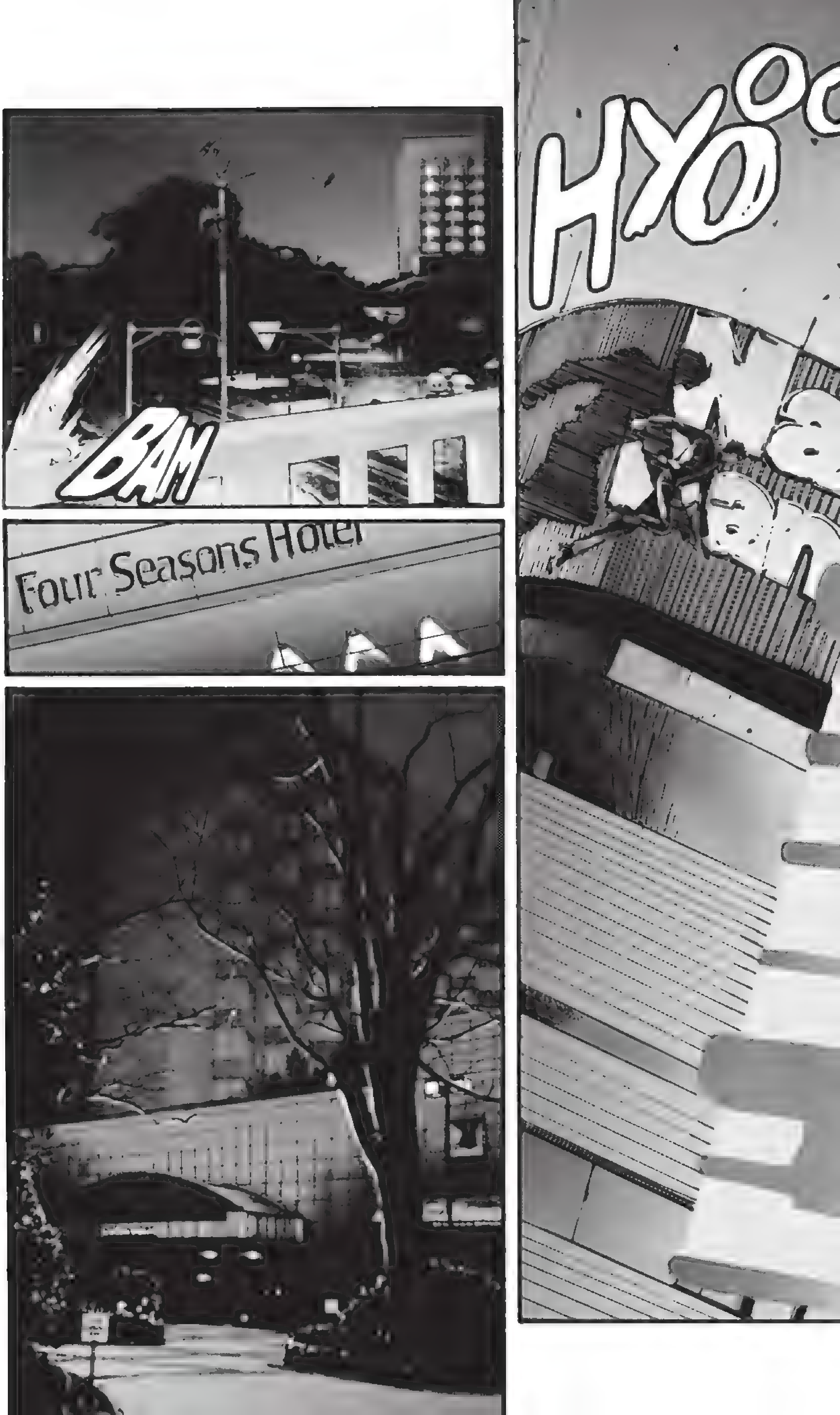

RRIP
SKLICH
KAMUI!
DON'T LOOK!

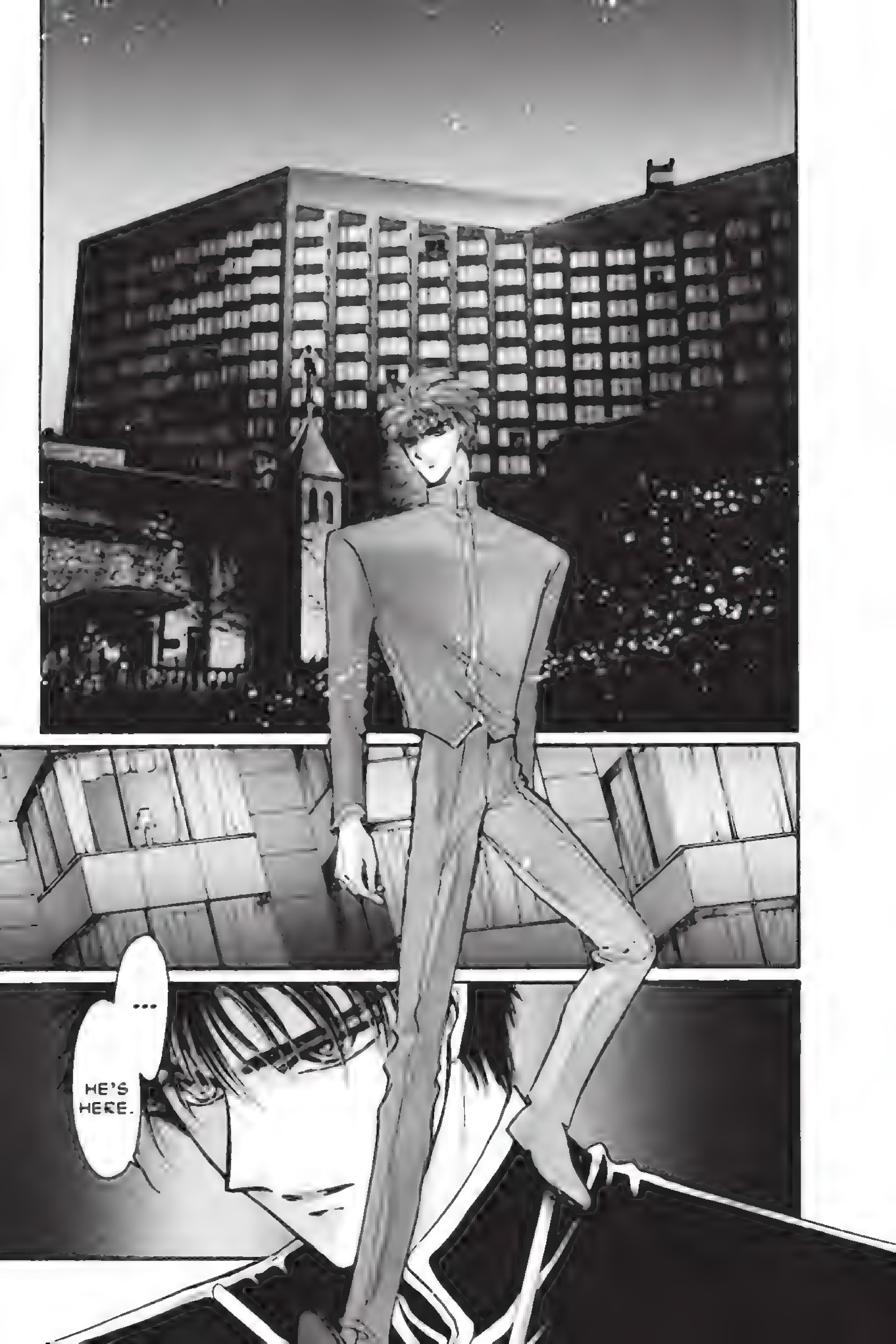

SPLUT...

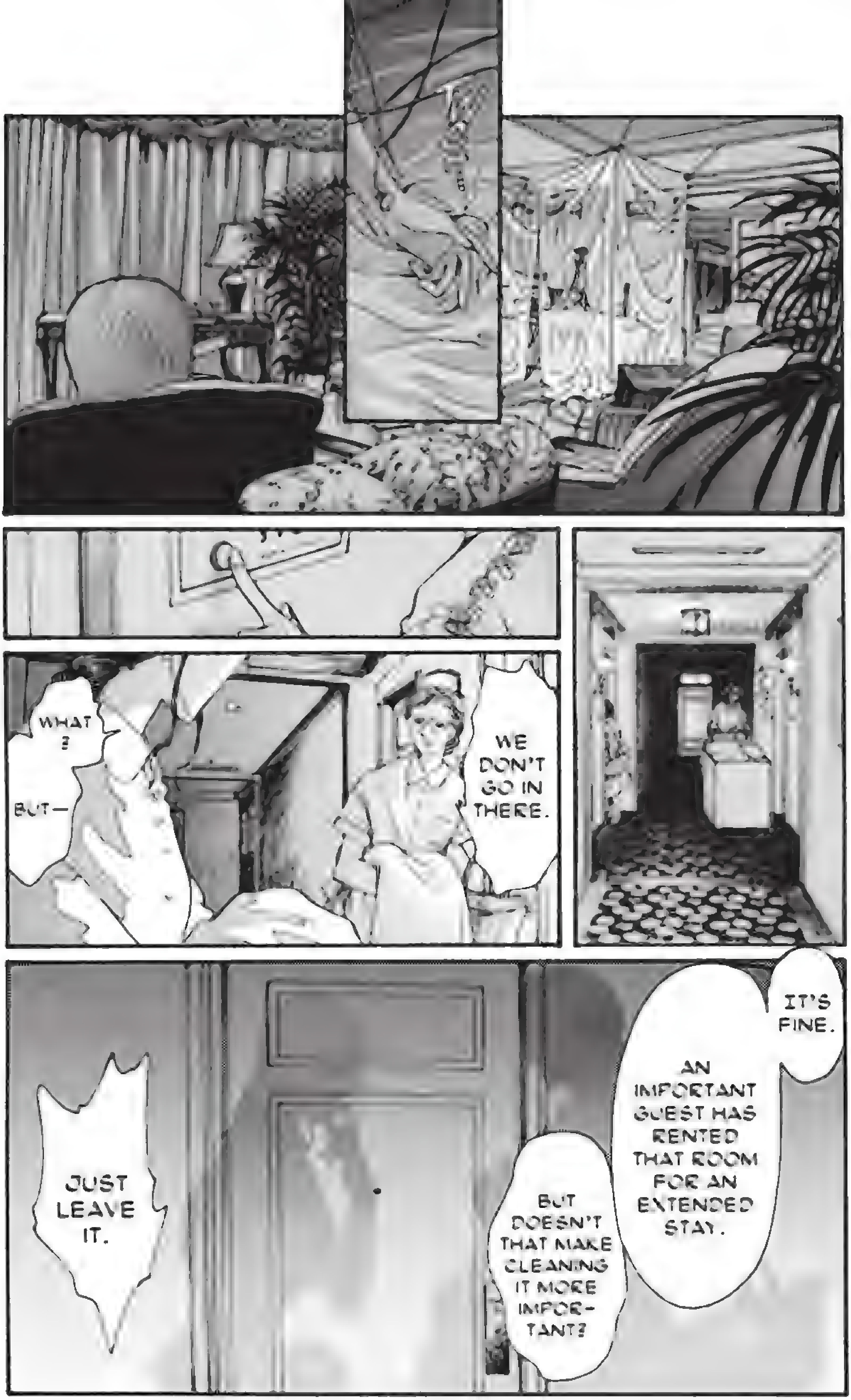

I AM...
NO ...
...THE ONE...
NO ...

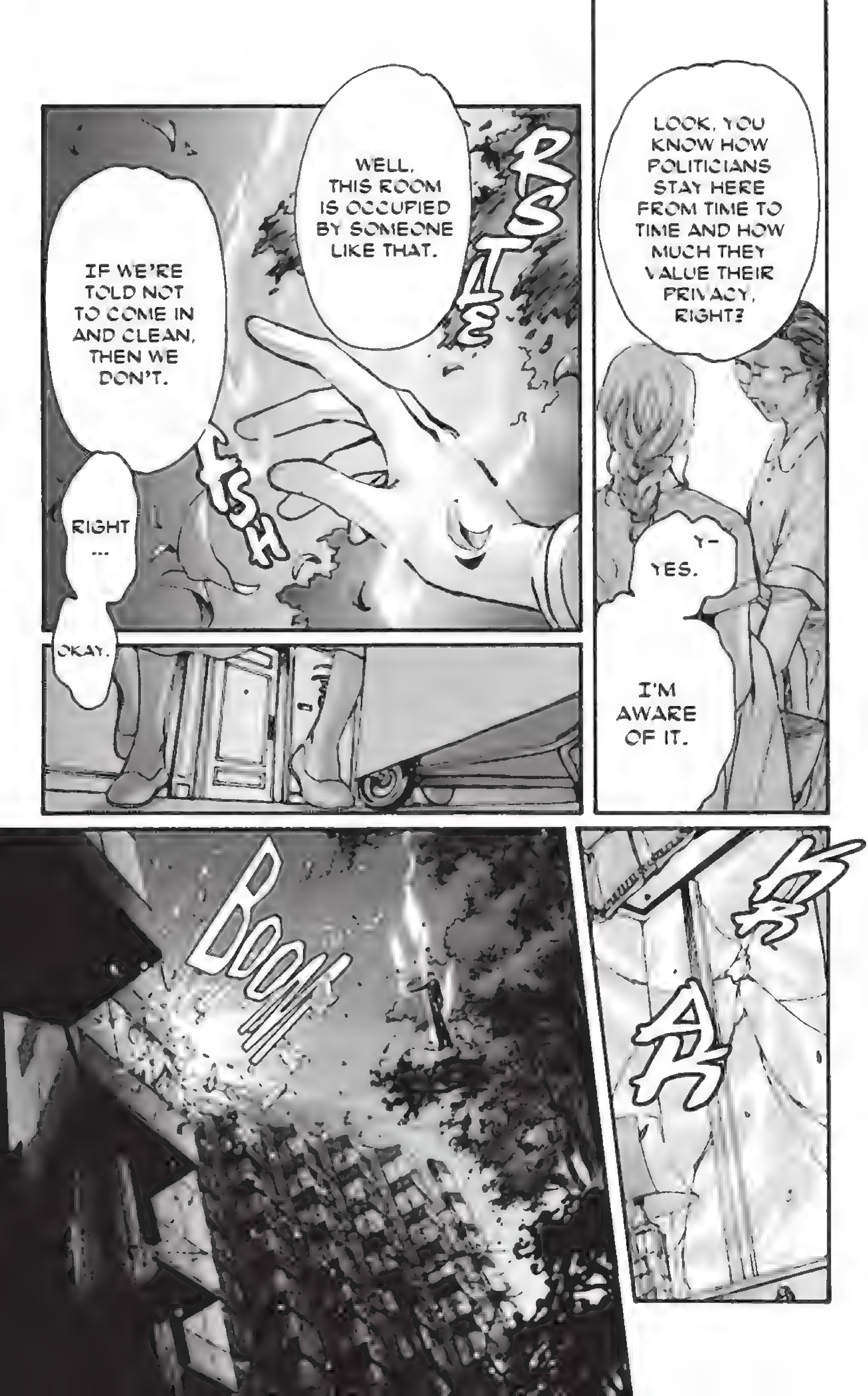

...WHO WILL KILL YOU.
SHAAAAAAAAAA
NOOOO!!

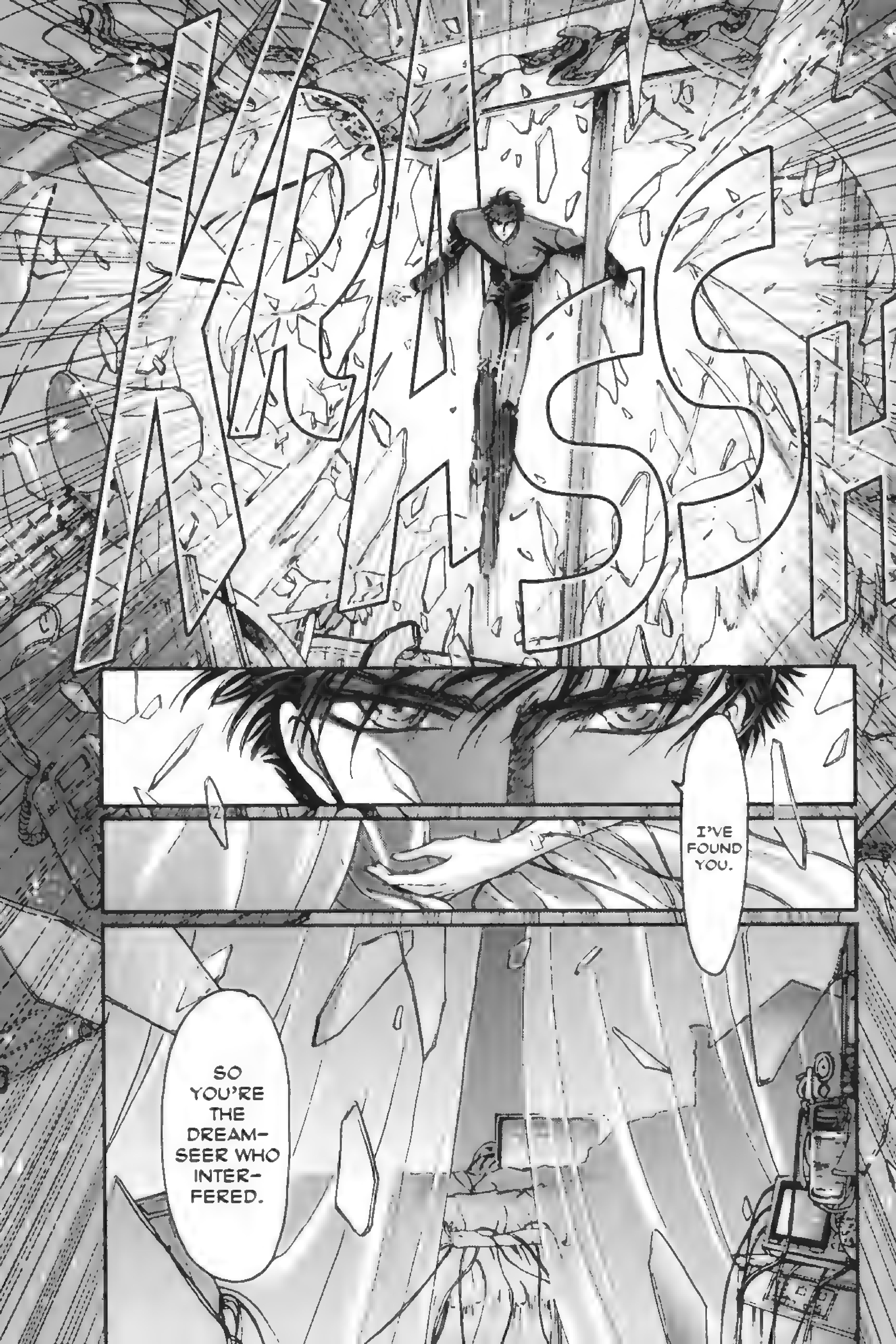

KO... TO... RI...
FU... MA...
KAMUI...

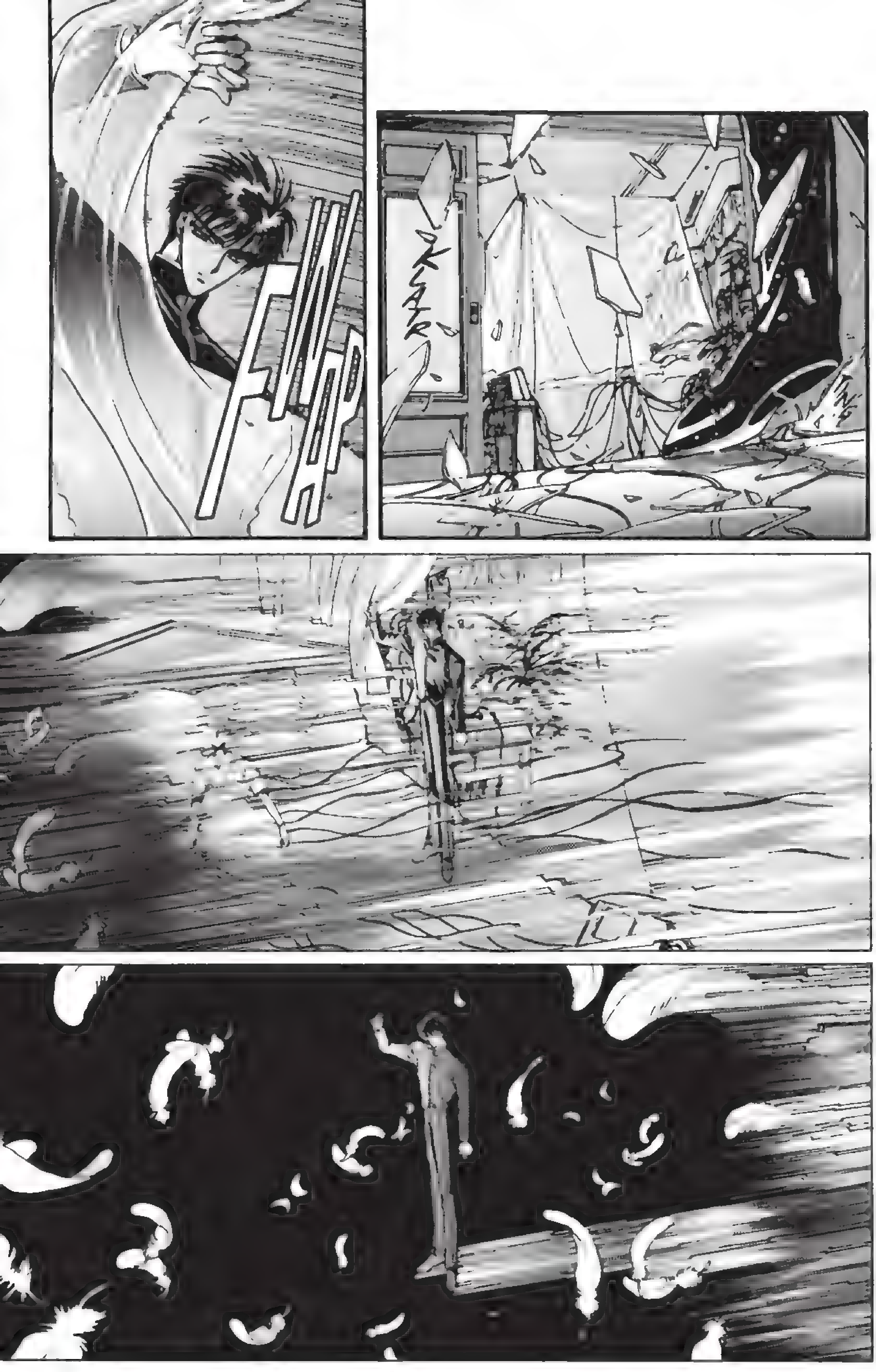

HYOOO
BAM
Four Seasons Hotel

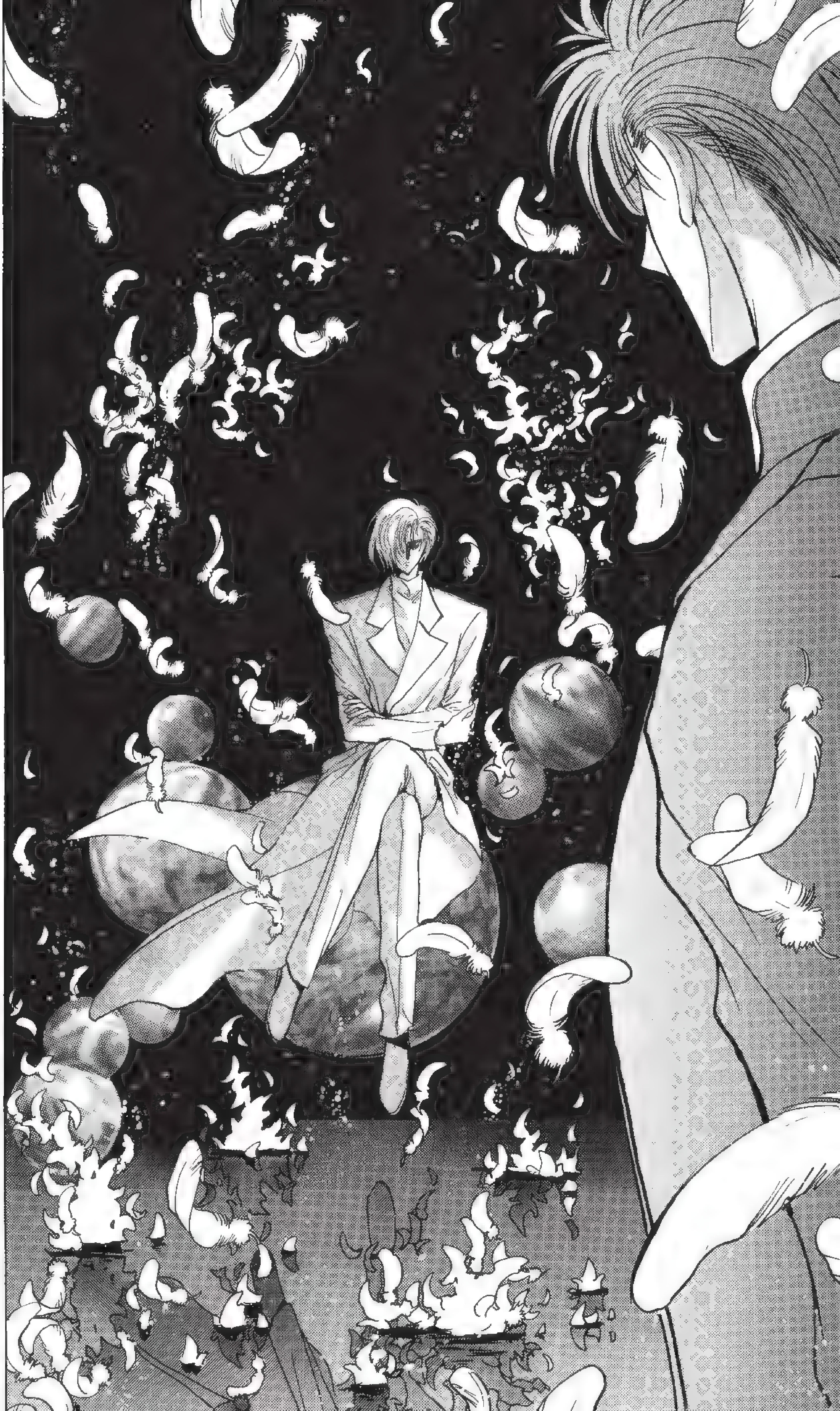

...
HE'S HERE.

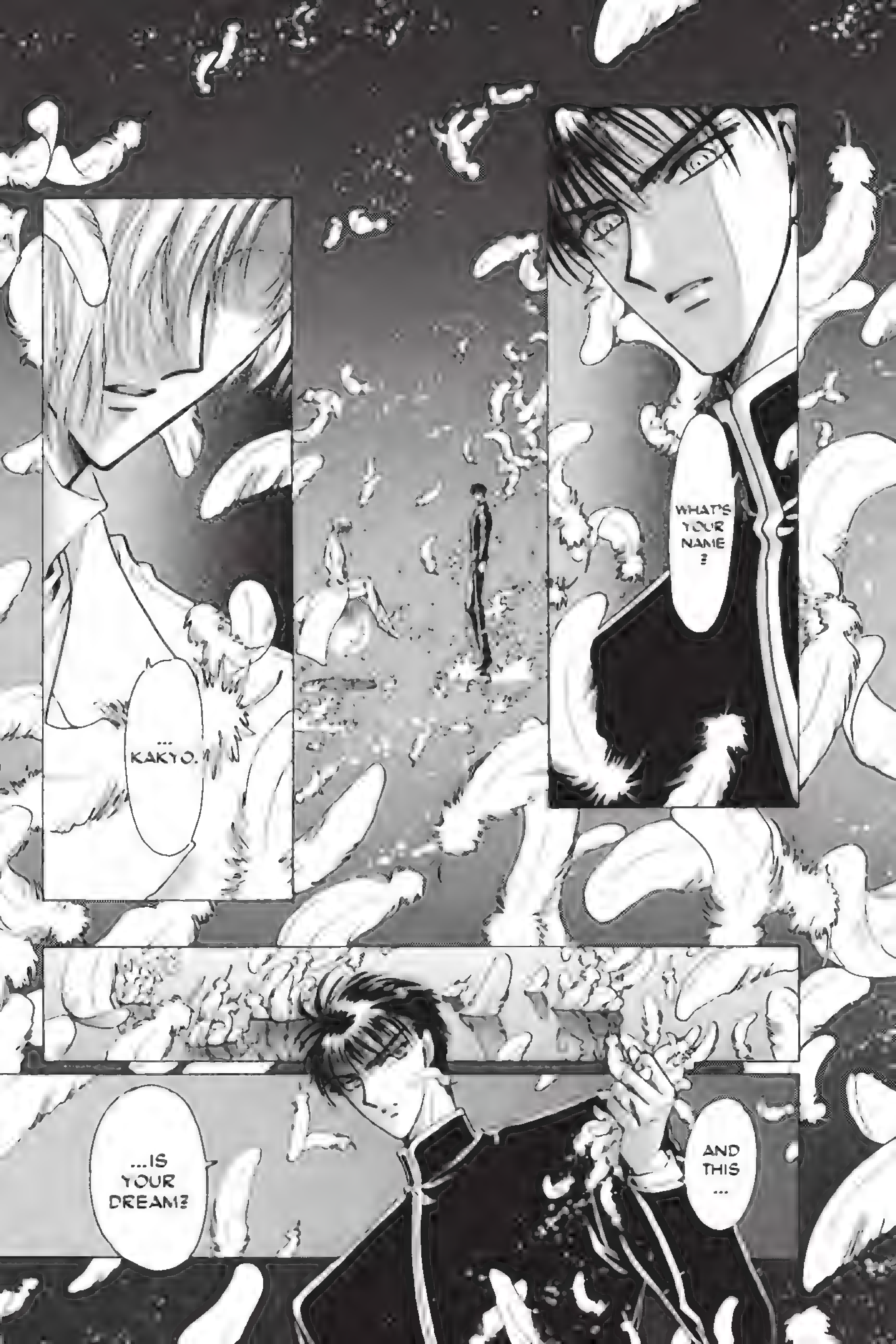

WE DON'T GO IN THERE.
WHAT? BUT—
IT'S FINE.
AN IMPORTANT GUEST HAS RENTED THAT ROOM FOR AN EXTENDED STAY.
BUT DOESN'T THAT MAKE CLEANING IT MORE IMPORTANT?
JUST LEAVE IT.

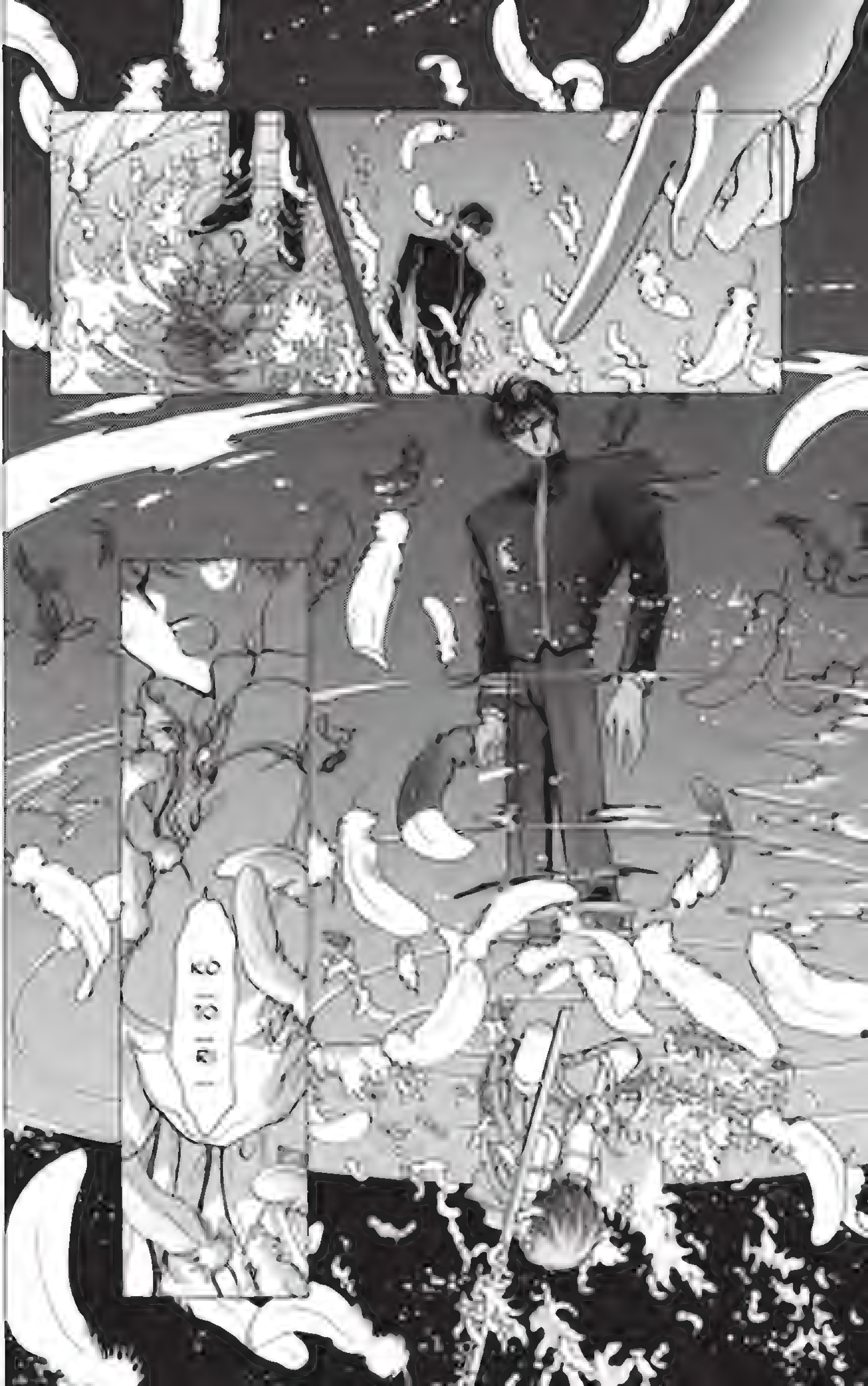

LOOK, YOU KNOW HOW POLITICIANS STAY HERE FROM TIME TO TIME AND HOW MUCH THEY VALUE THEIR PRIVACY, RIGHT?
Y- YES.
I'M AWARE OF IT.
WELL, THIS ROOM IS OCCUPIED BY SOMEONE LIKE THAT.
RSTLE
IF WE'RE TOLD NOT TO COME IN AND CLEAN, THEN WE DON'T.
FSH
RIGHT ...
OKAY.
KA
BOOM

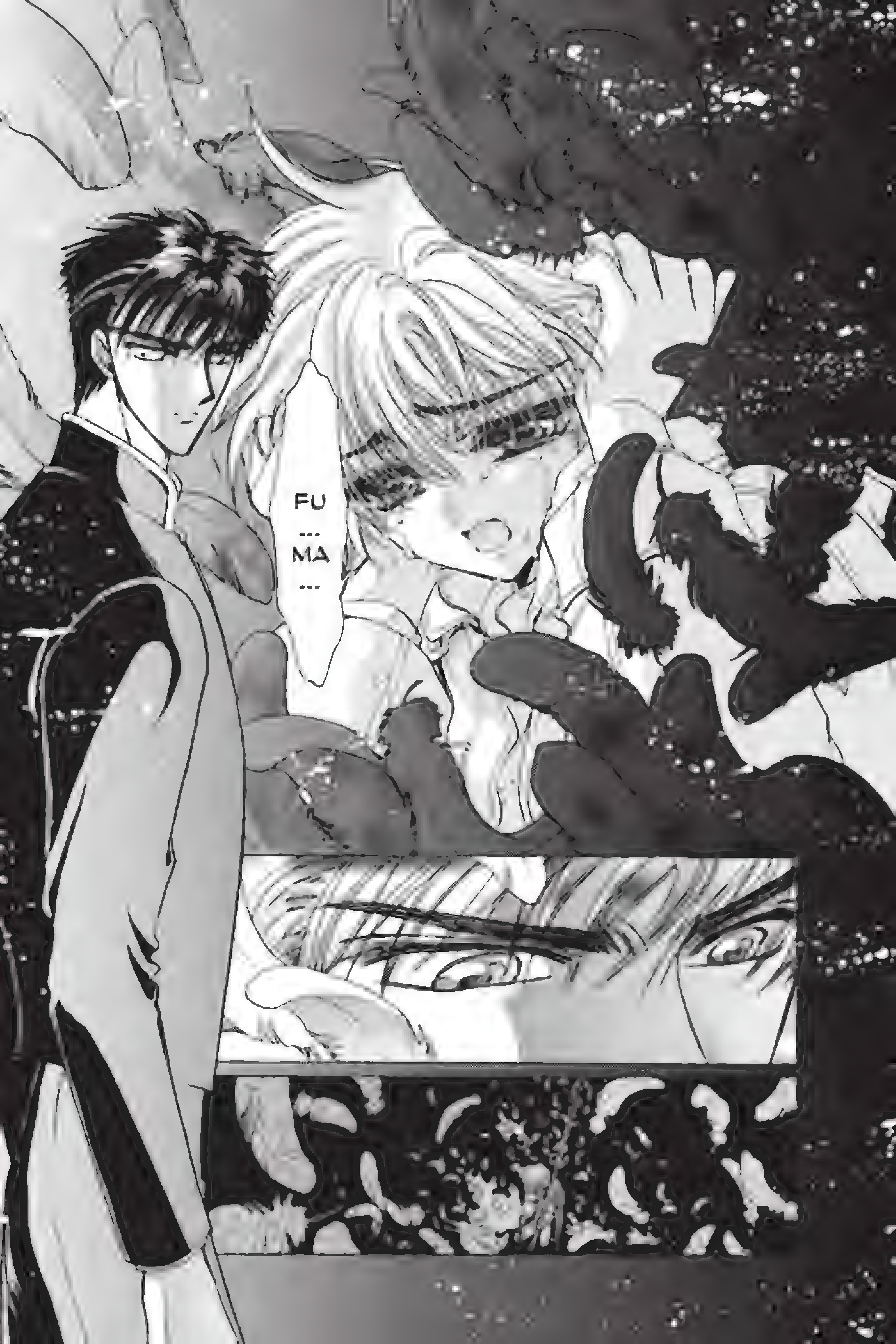

KRASH
I'VE FOUND YOU.
SO YOU'RE THE DREAM-SEER WHO INTERFERED.

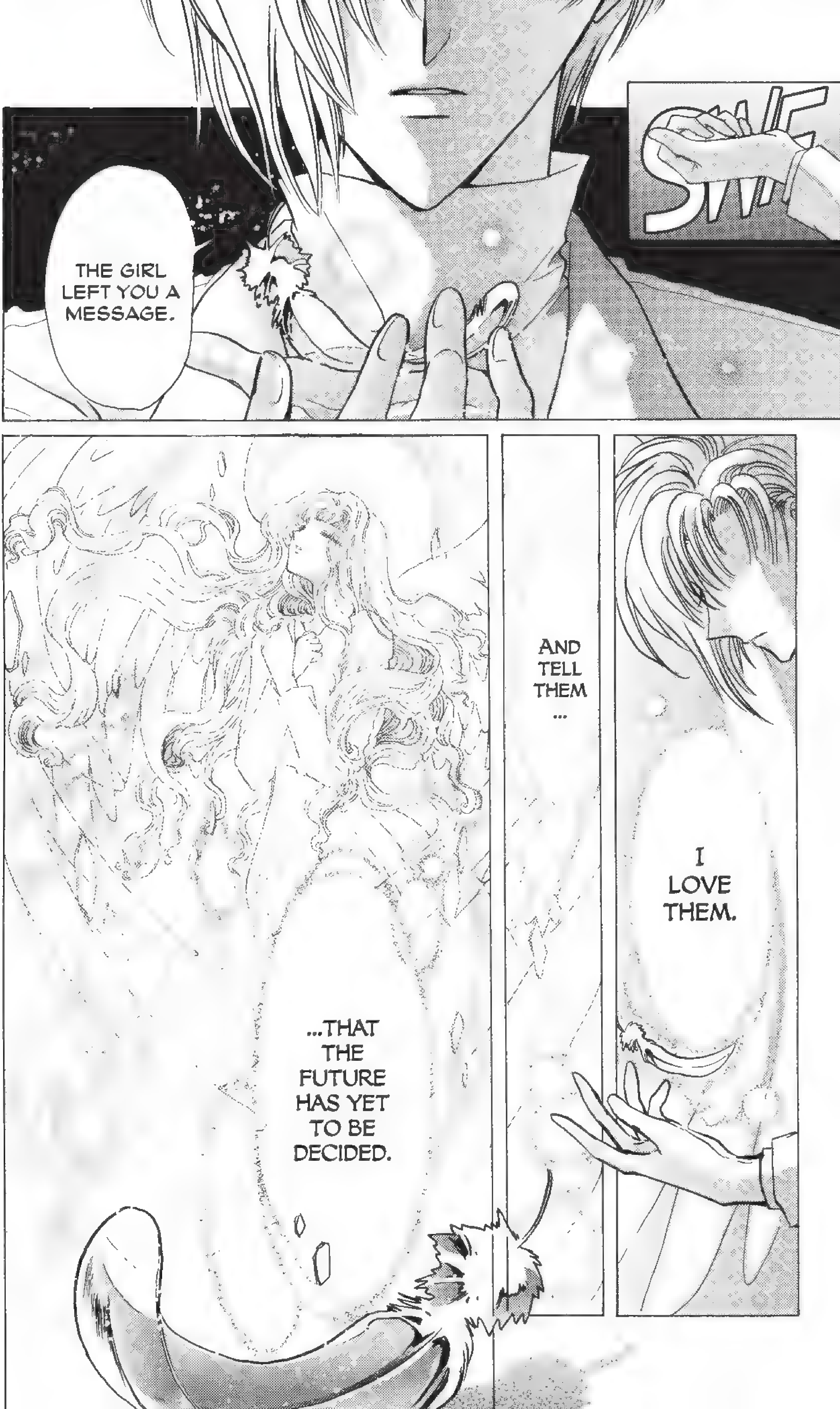

FWAP

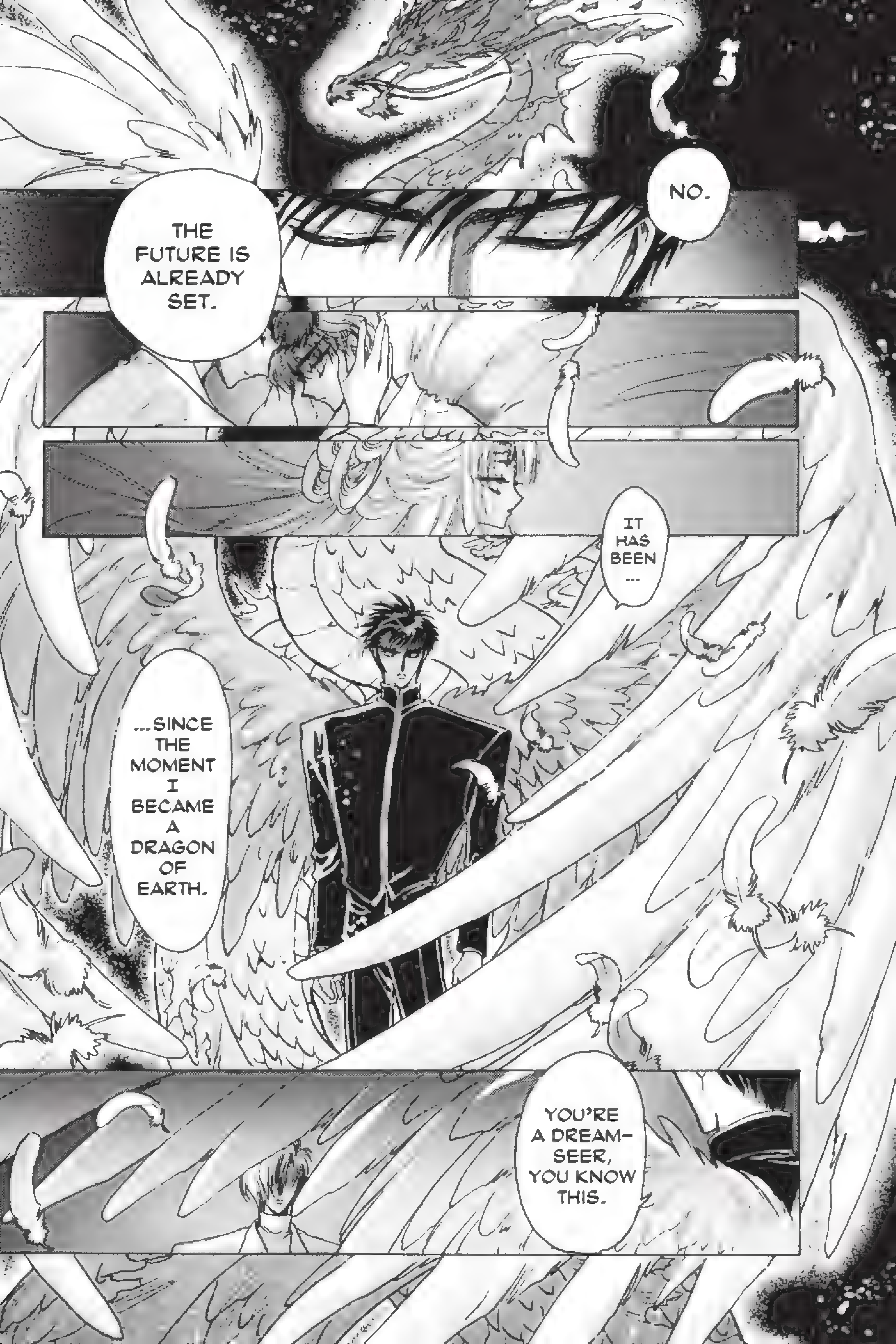


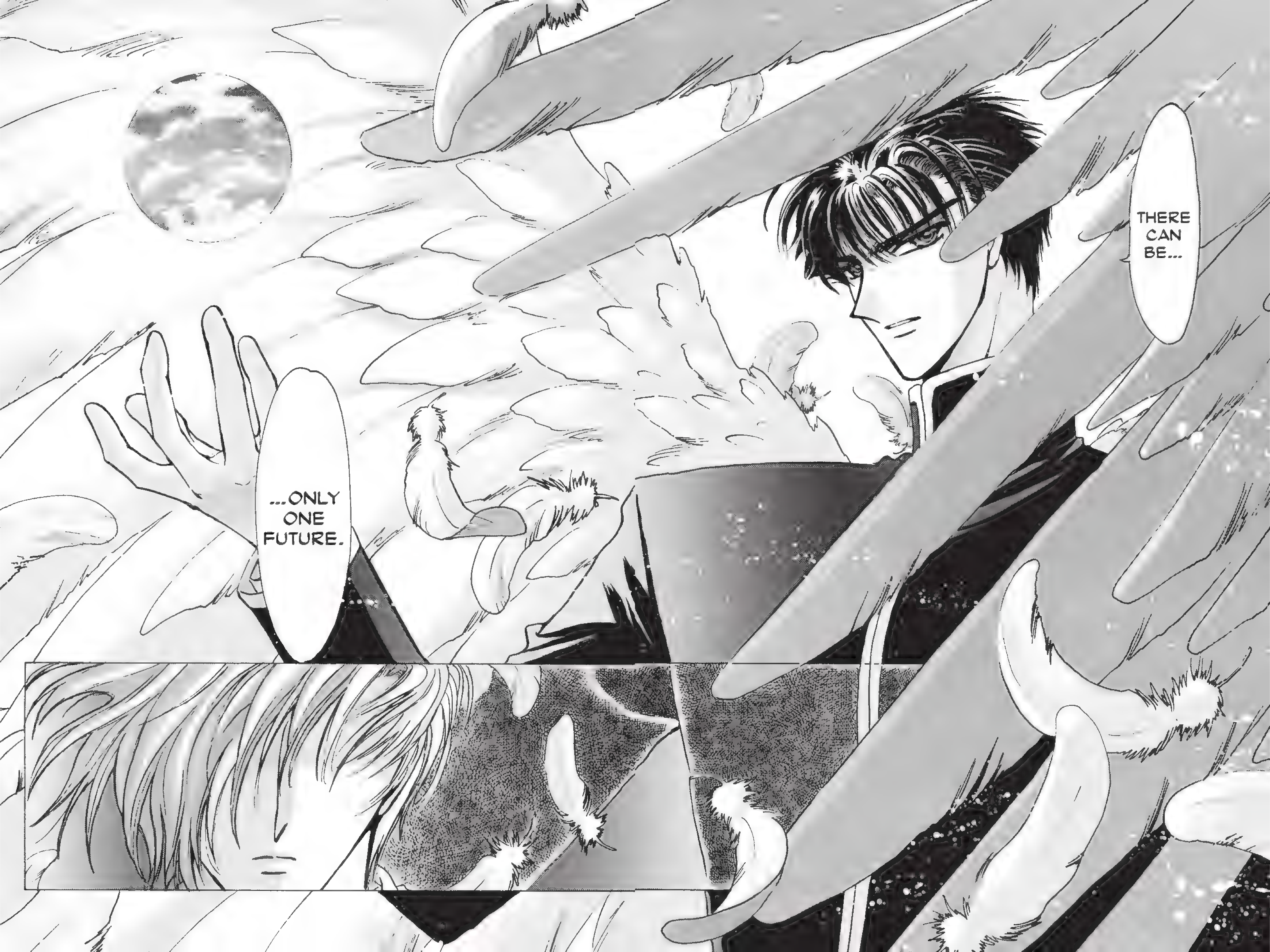

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
...KAKYO.
AND THIS...
...IS YOUR DREAM?



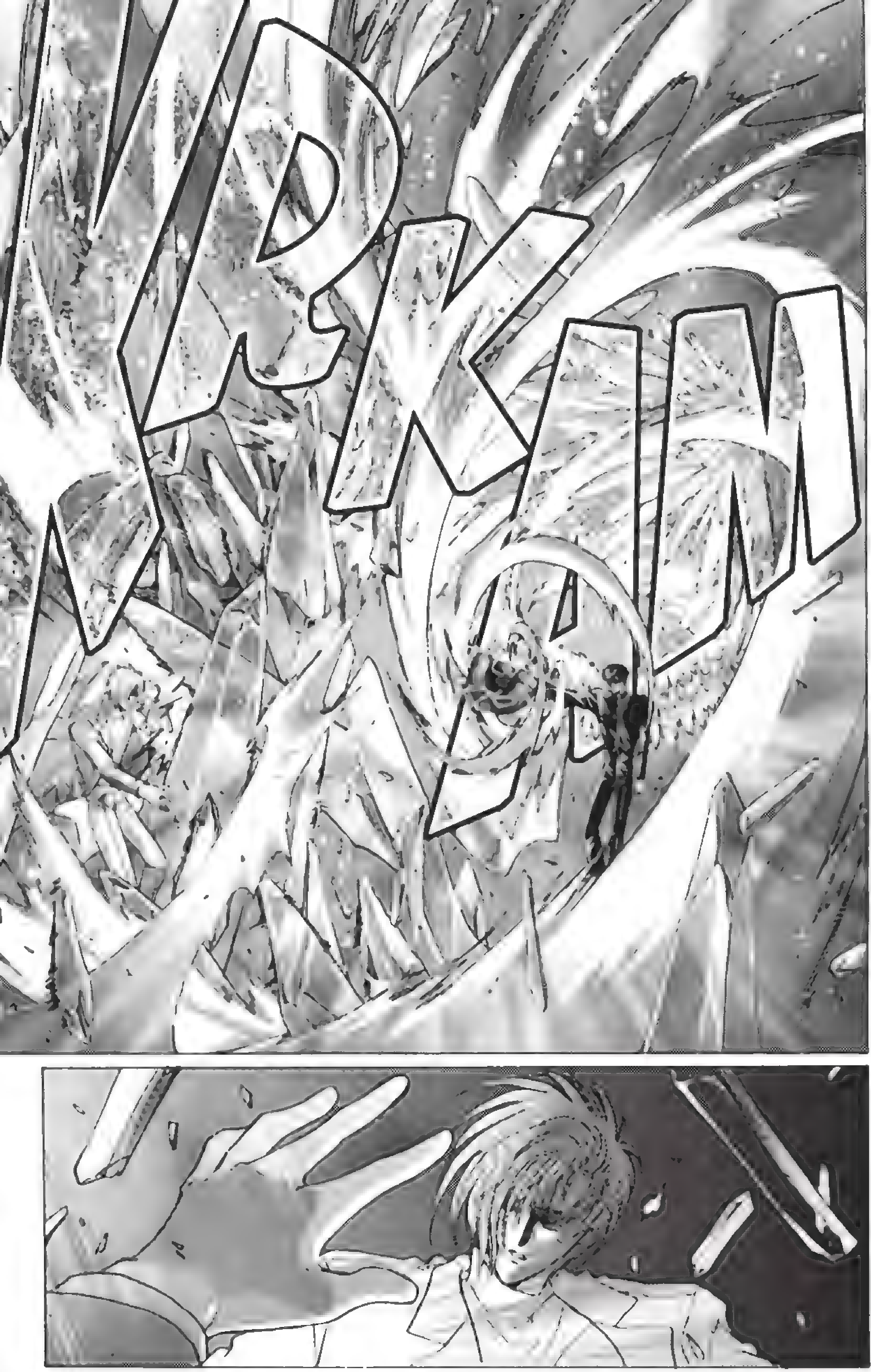

FU … MA …

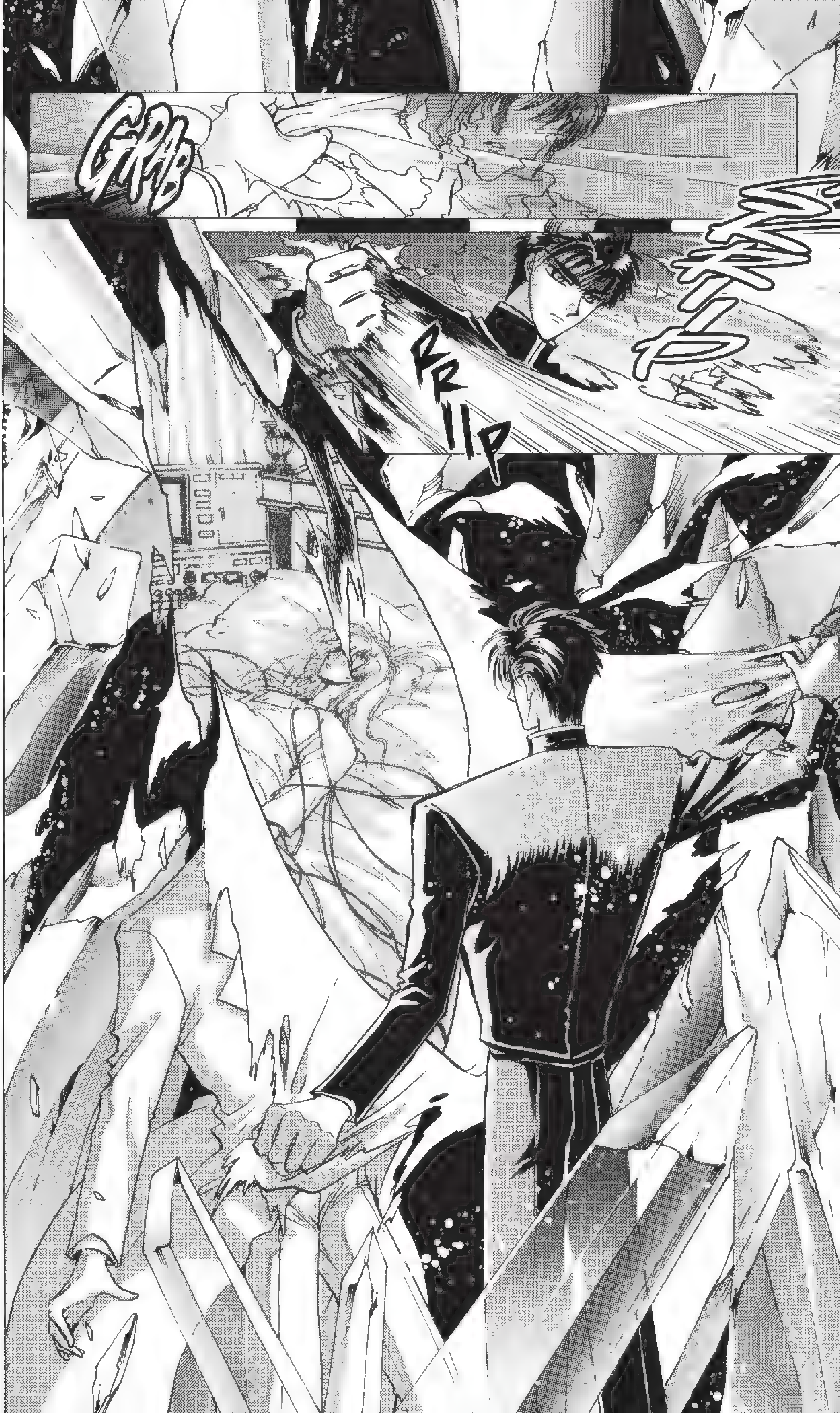

SWF
THE GIRL LEFT YOU A MESSAGE.
I LOVE THEM.
AND TELL THEM ...
...THAT THE FUTURE HAS YET TO BE DECIDED.

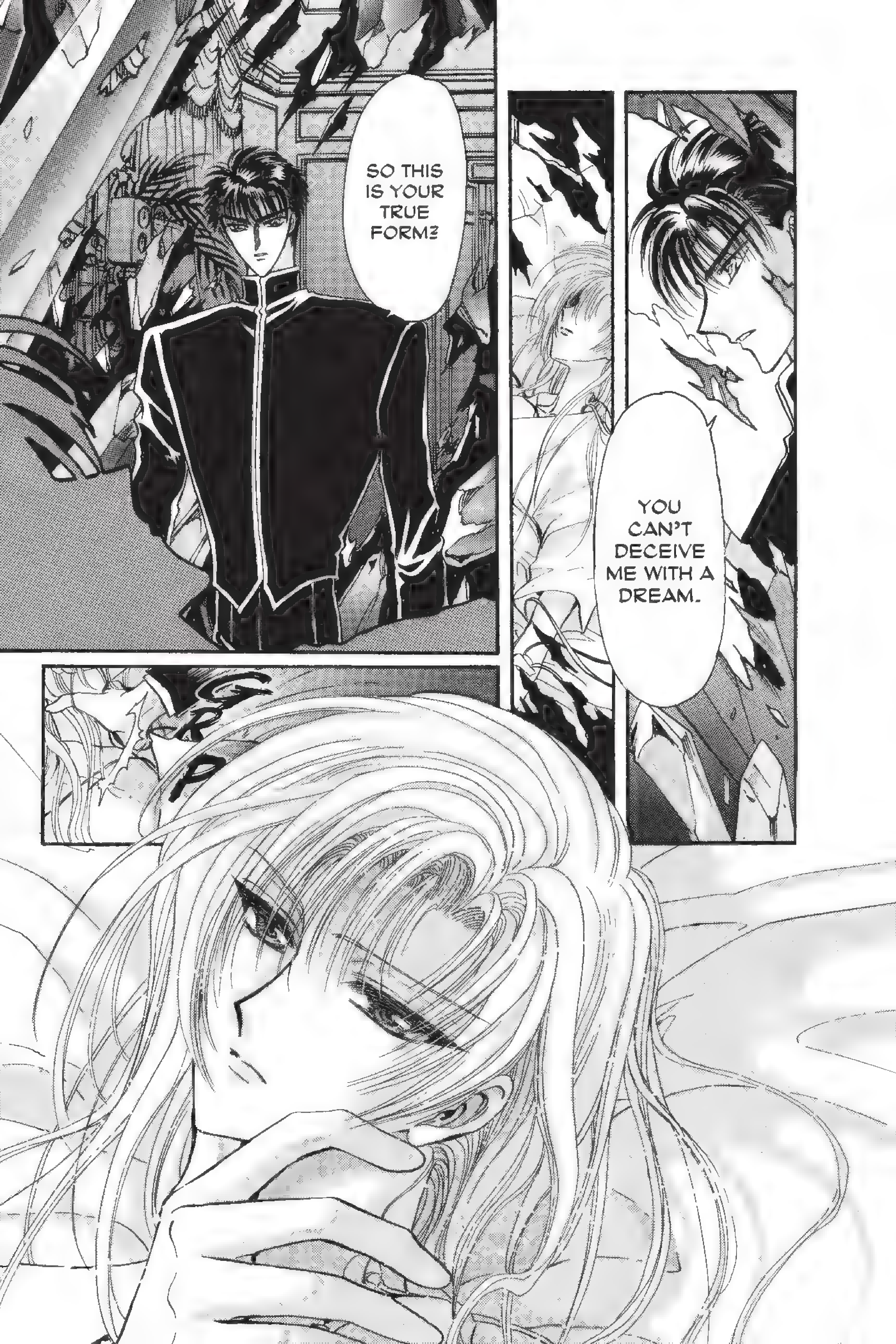

NO.
THE FUTURE IS ALREADY SET.
IT HAS BEEN ...
...SINCE THE MOMENT I BECAME A DRAGON OF EARTH.
YOU'RE A DREAM-SEER, YOU KNOW THIS.

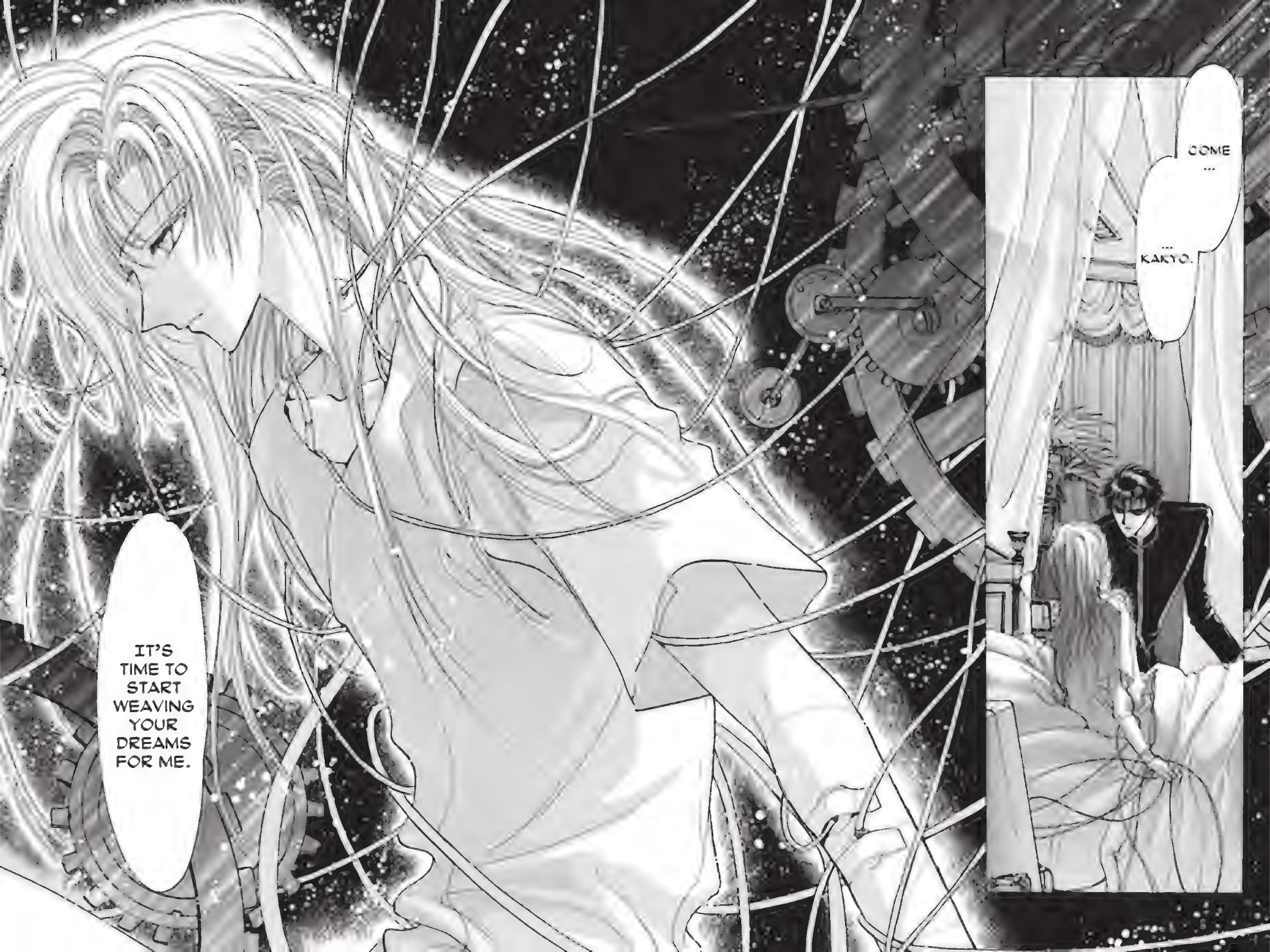

THERE CAN BE...
...ONLY ONE FUTURE.

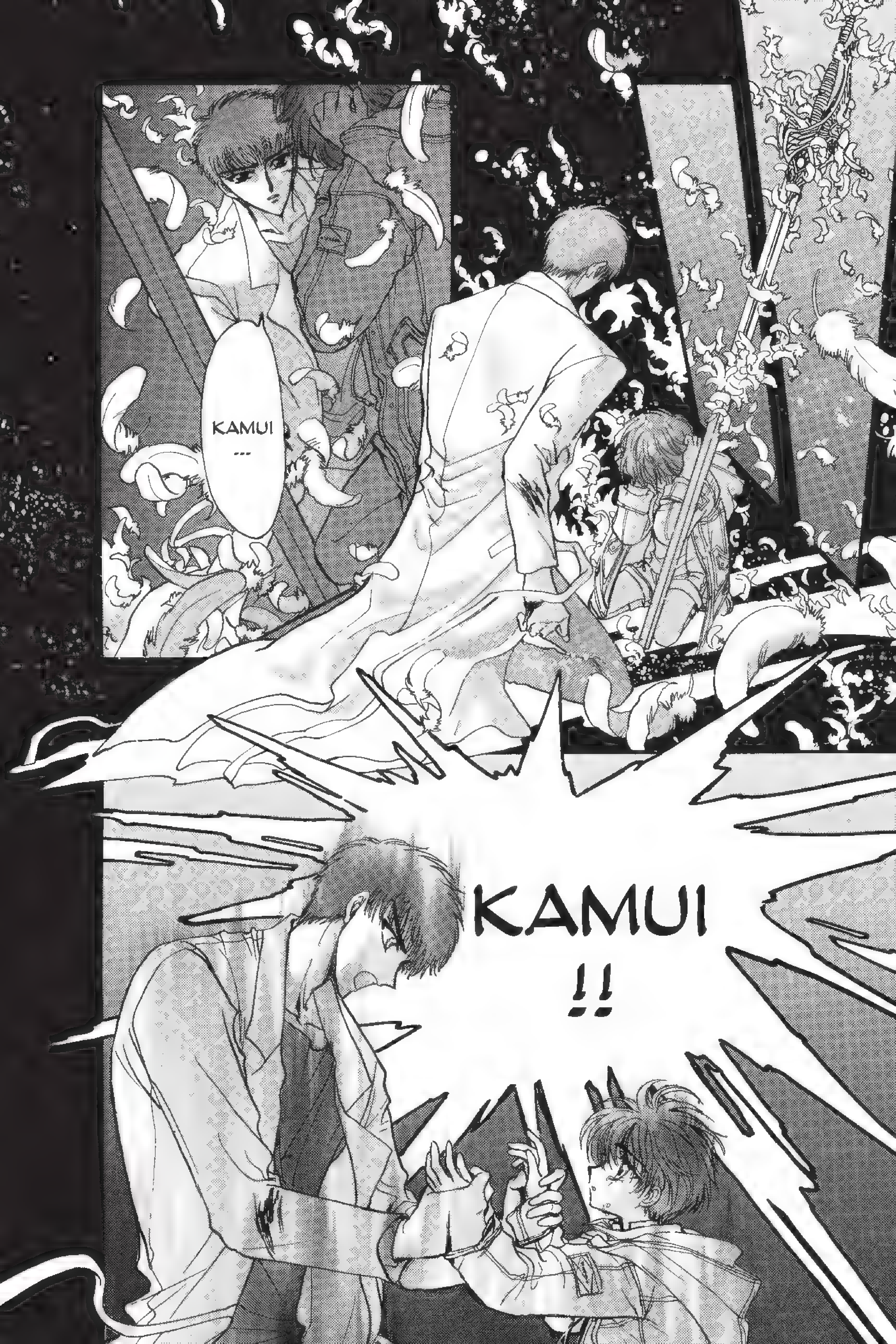
THP
SHSSH
KATATA

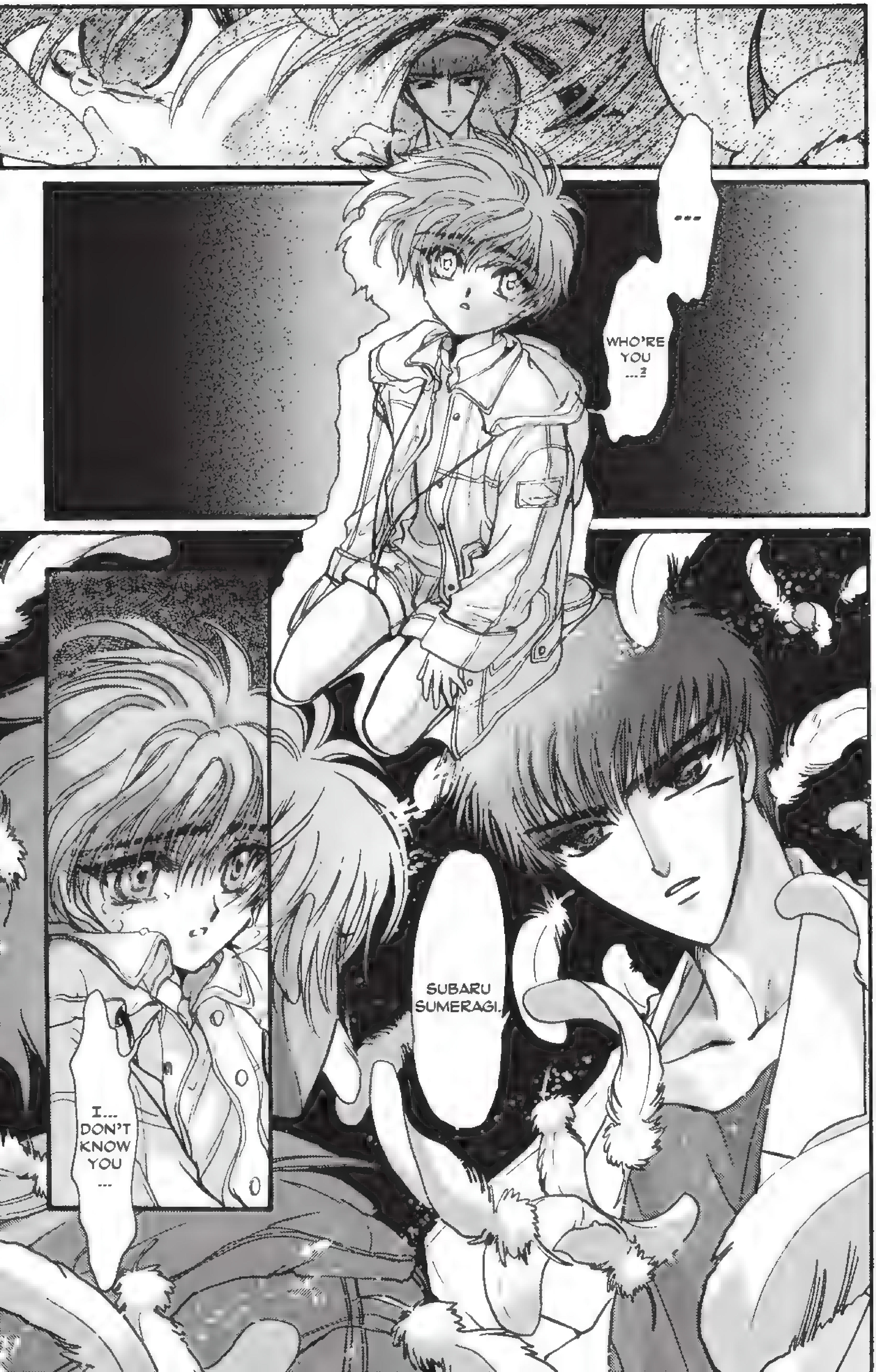

WRKAM

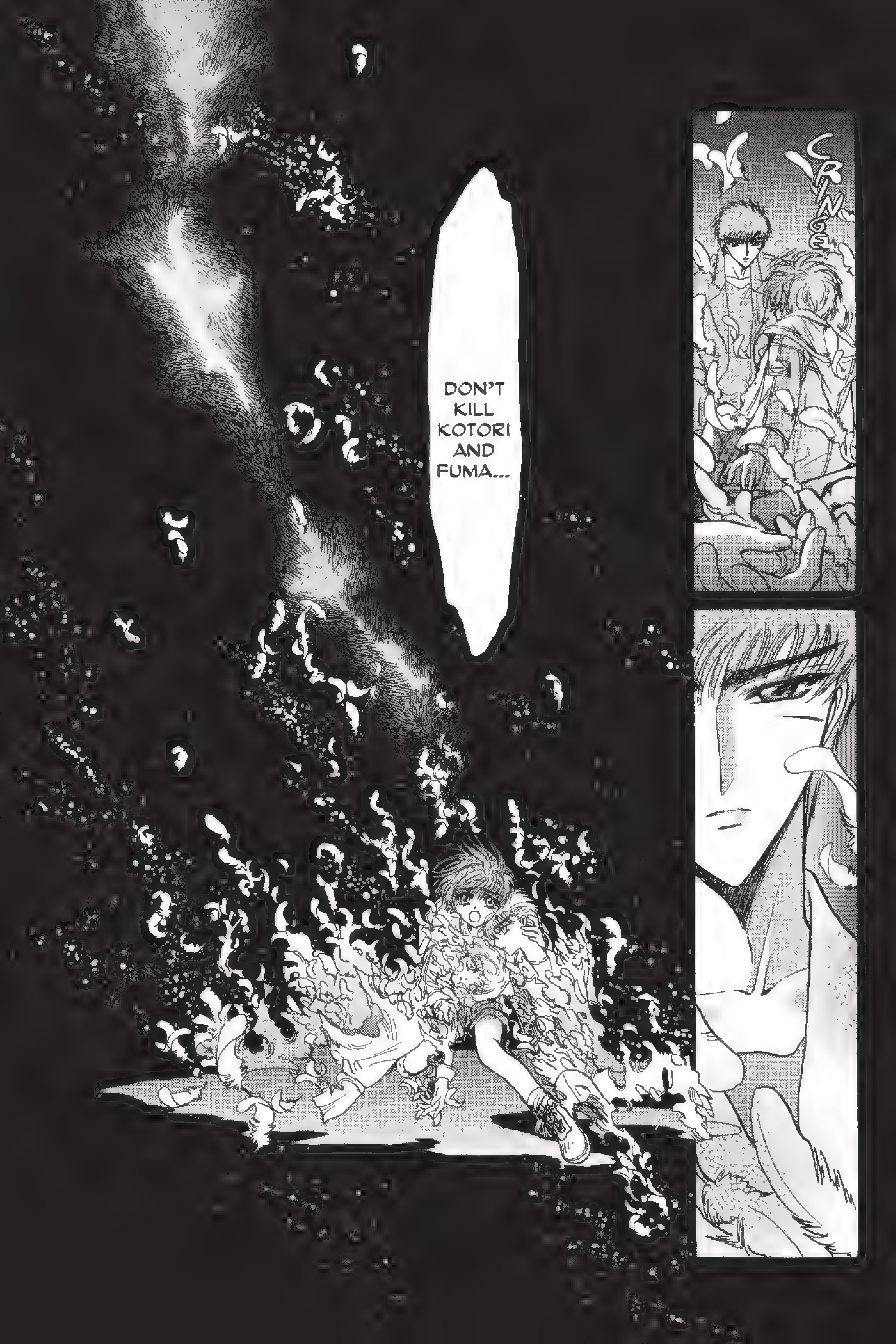

GRAB
SNATCH
RRIIP

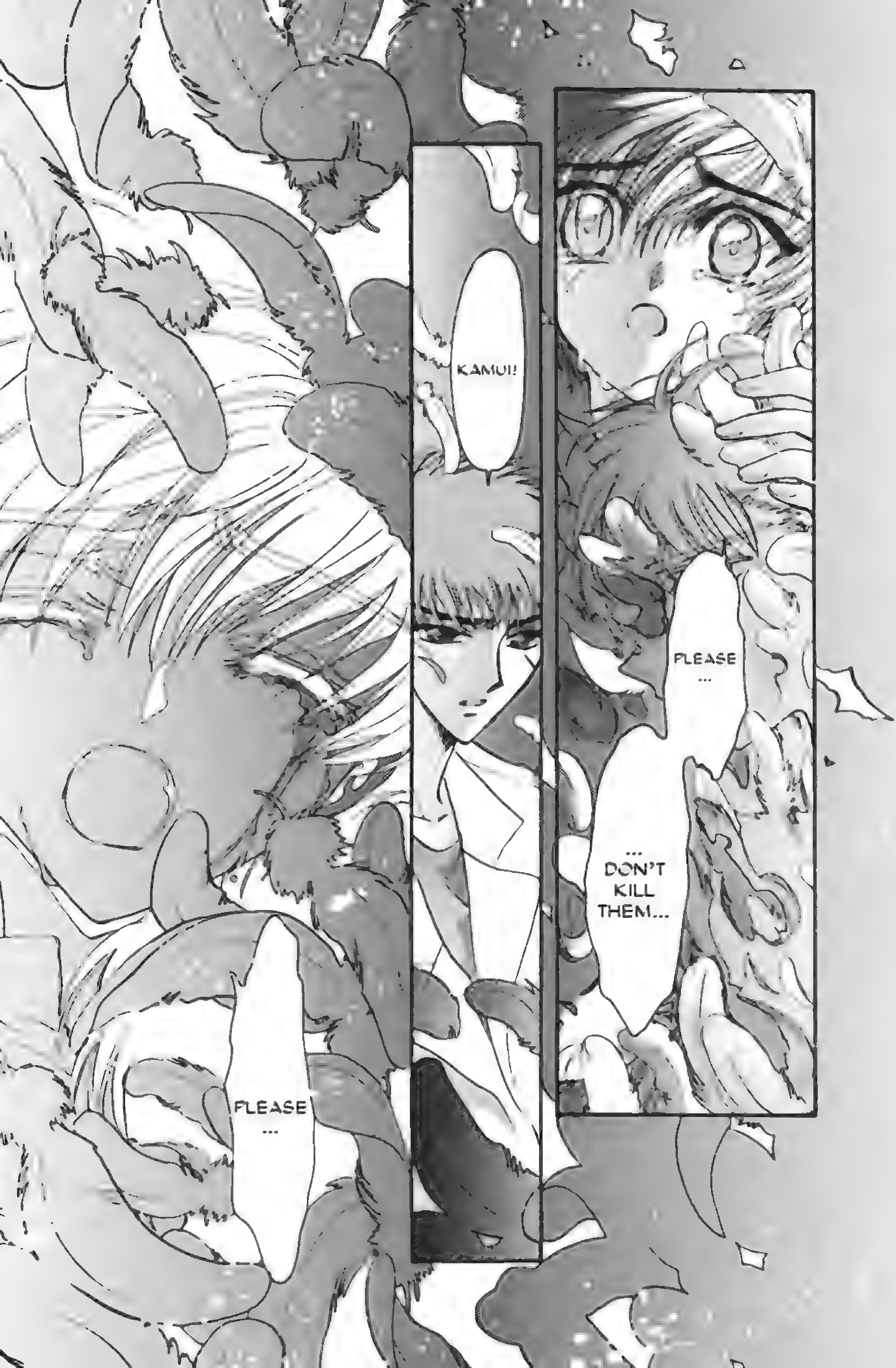

SO THIS IS YOUR TRUE FORM?
YOU CAN'T DECEIVE ME WITH A DREAM.
GRP

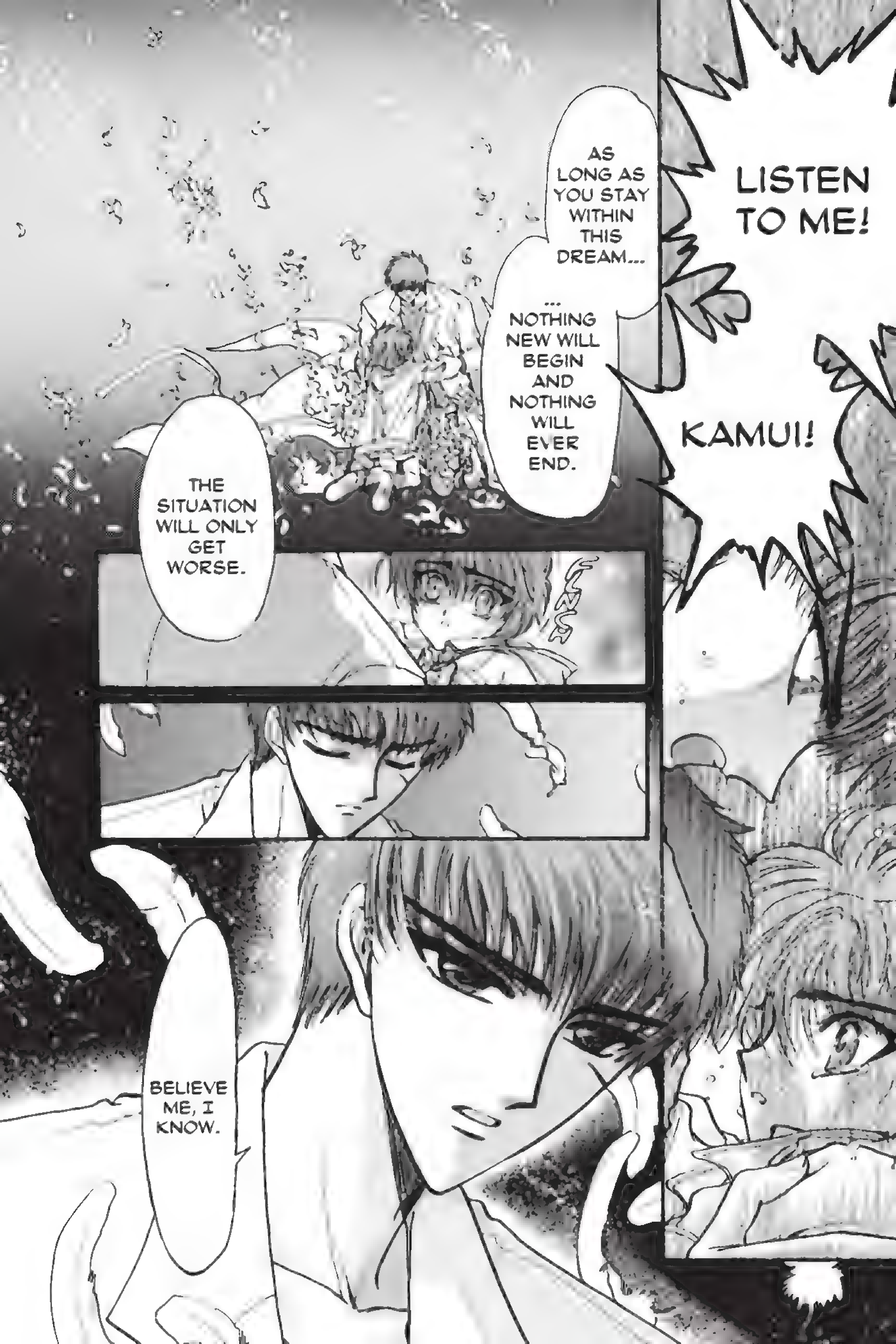

COME ...
... KAKYO.
IT'S TIME TO START WEAVING YOUR DREAMS FOR ME.

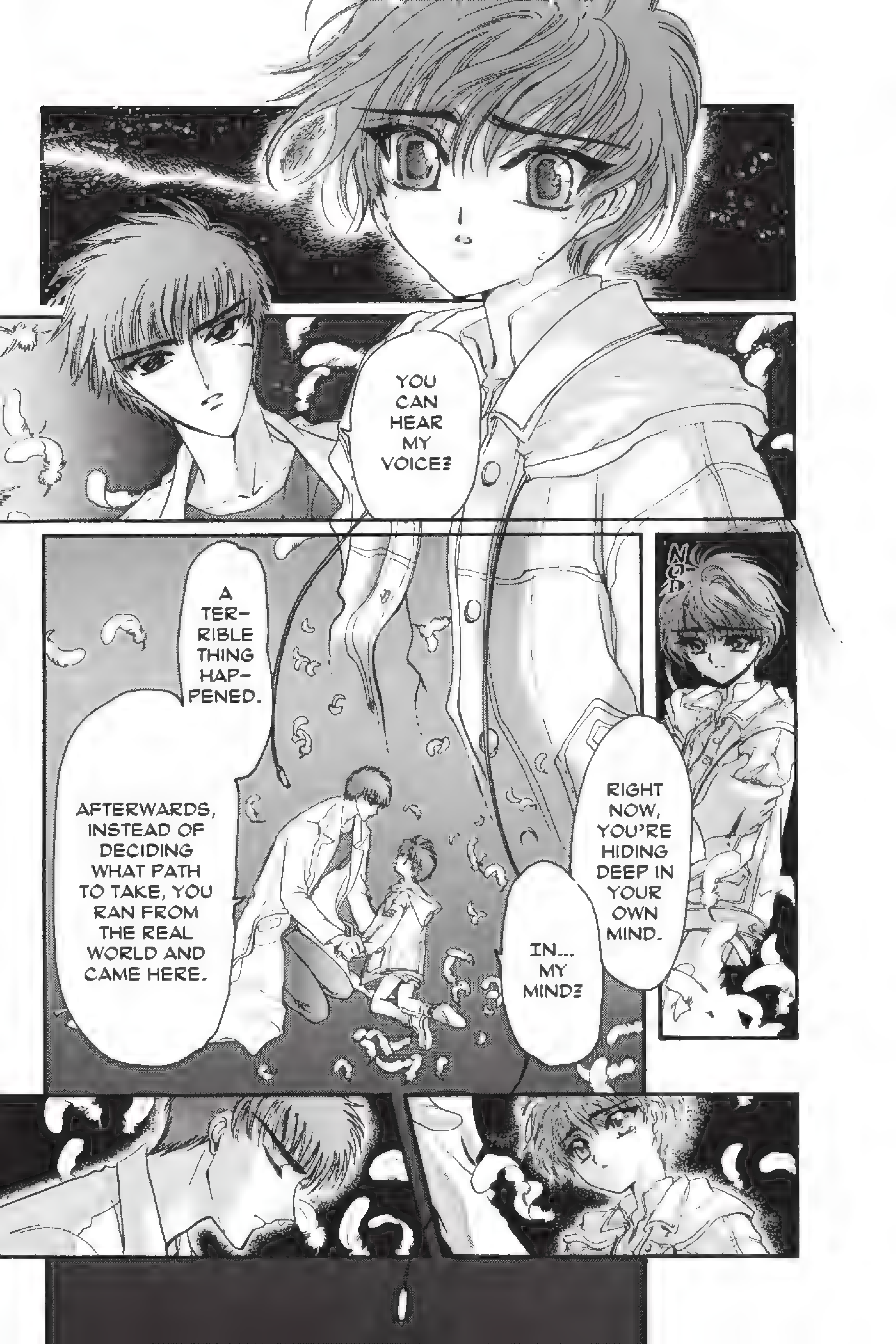

KAMUI ---
KAMUI !!

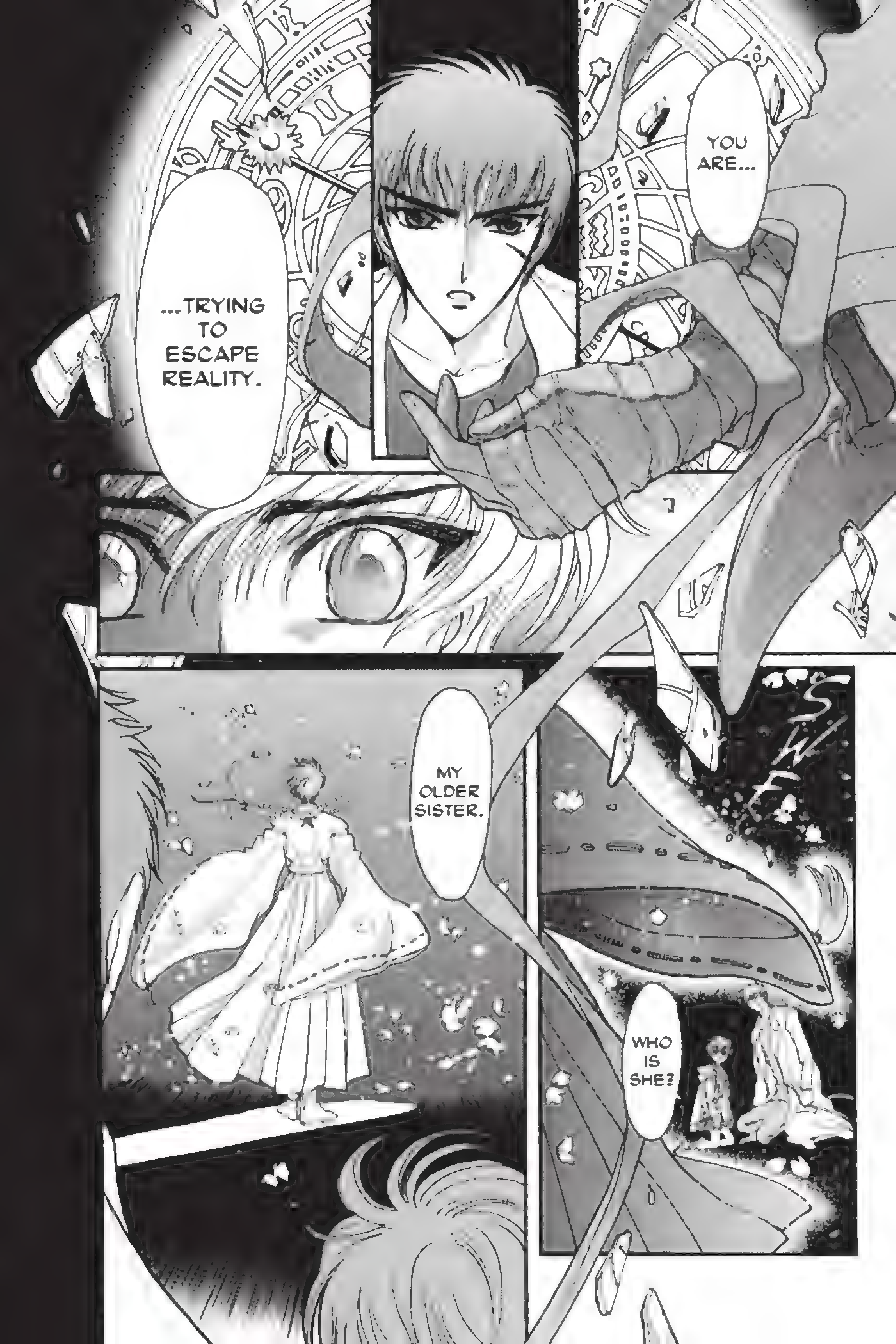

...
WHO'RE YOU ...?
SUBARU SUMERAGI.
I... DON'T KNOW YOU ...

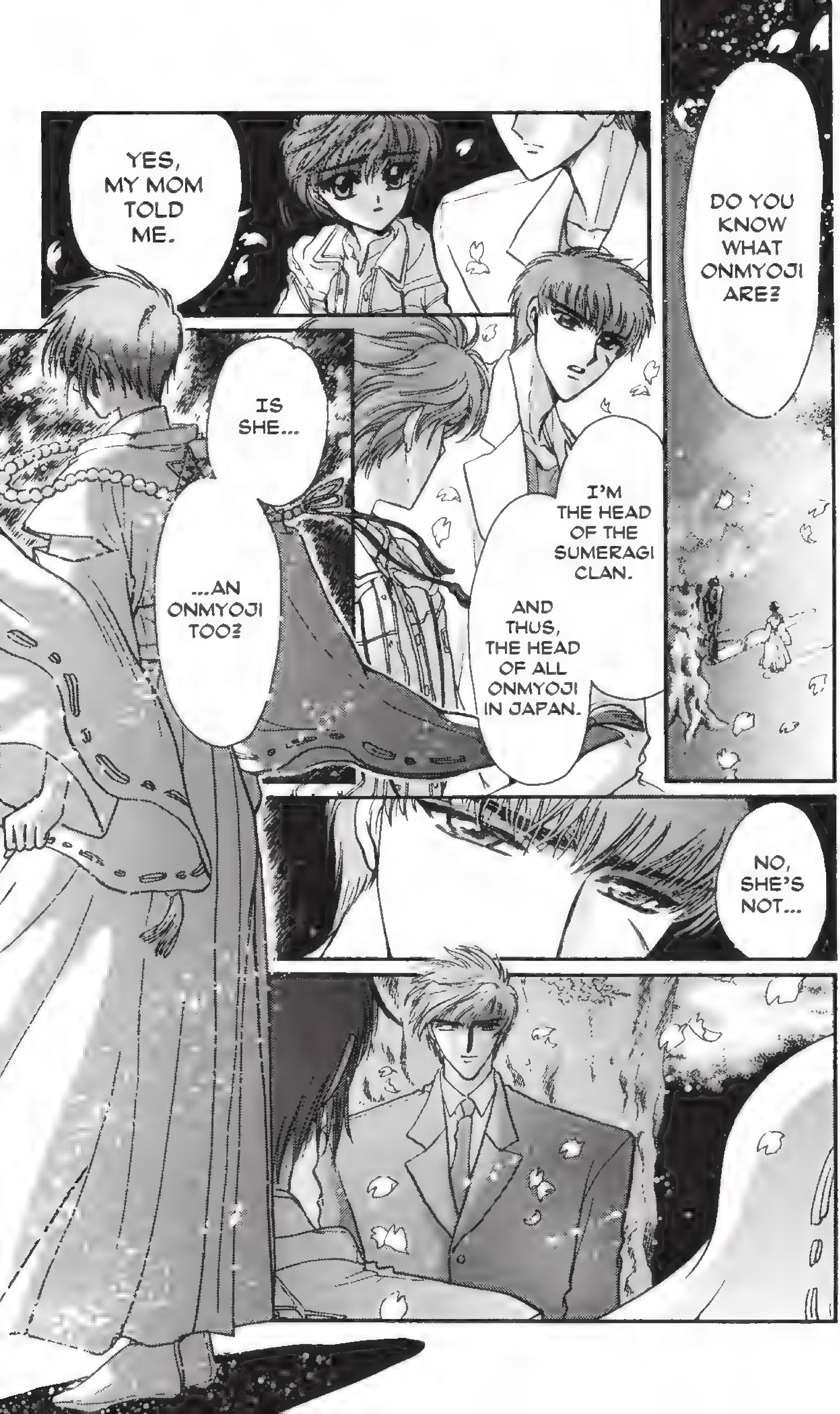

CRINGE
DON'T KILL KOTORI AND FUMA...

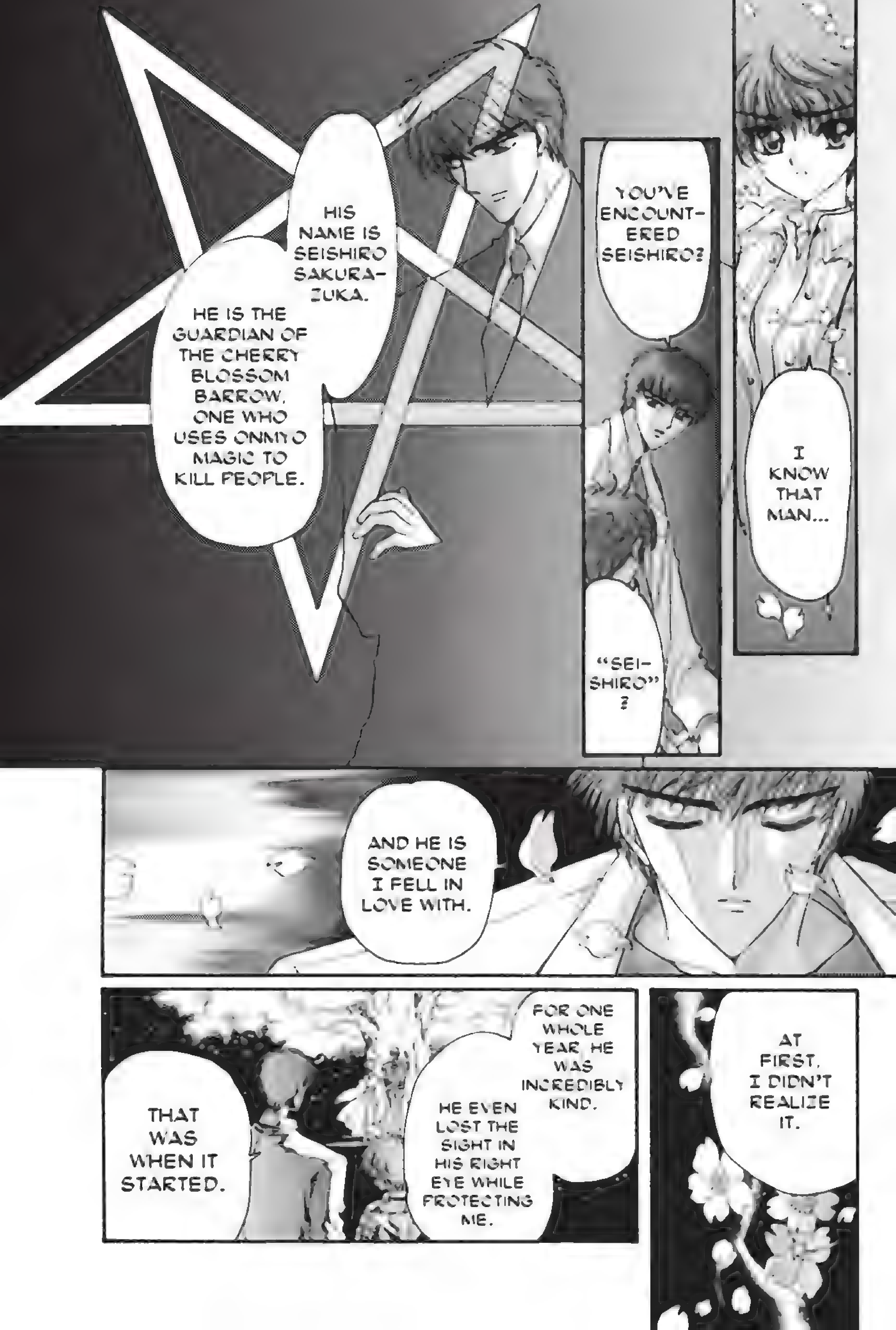

PLEASE ...
... DON'T KILL THEM...
KAMUI!
PLEASE ...

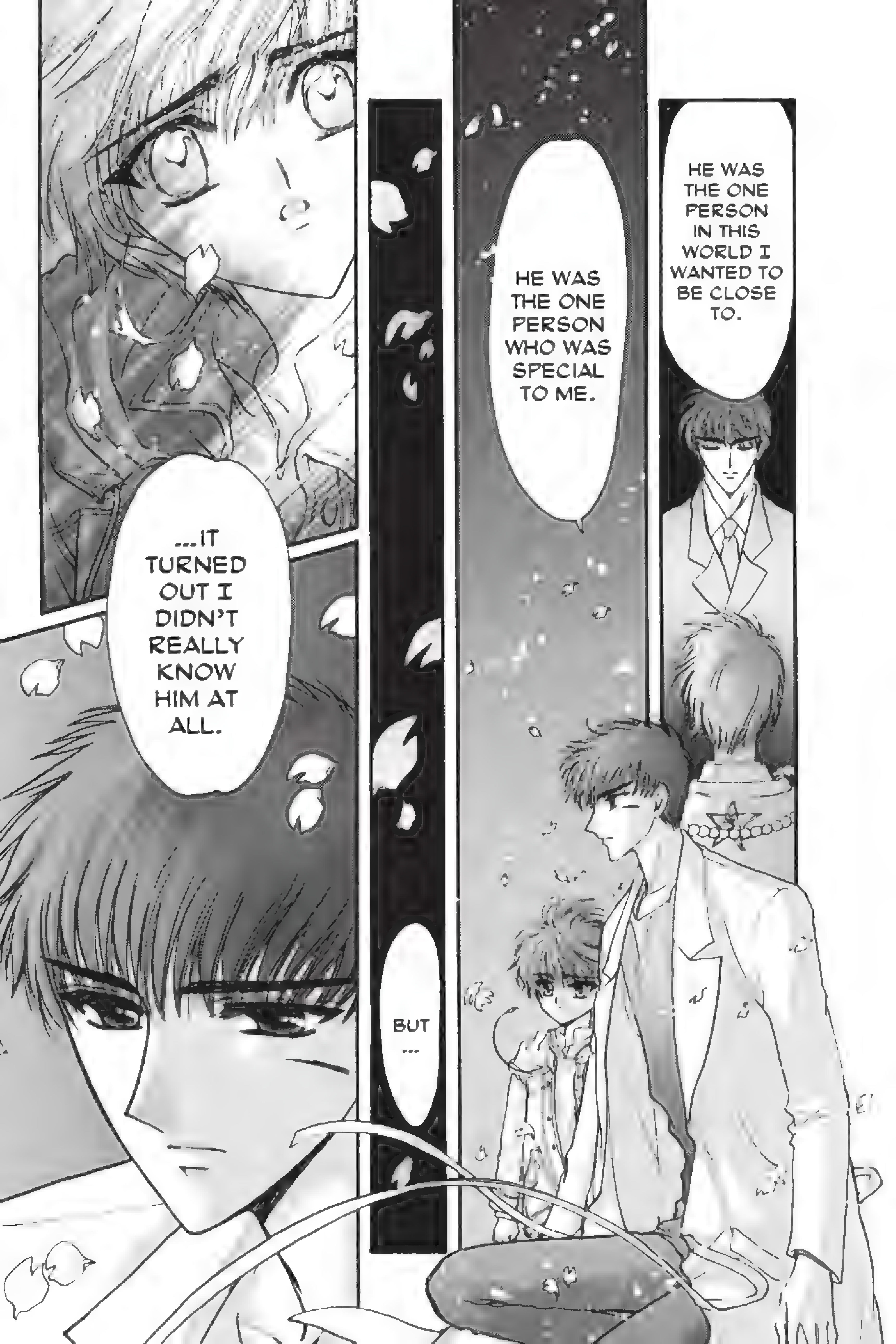

LISTEN TO ME!
KAMUI!
AS LONG AS YOU STAY WITHIN THIS DREAM...
...NOTHING NEW WILL BEGIN AND NOTHING WILL EVER END.
THE SITUATION WILL ONLY GET WORSE.
BELIEVE ME, I KNOW.

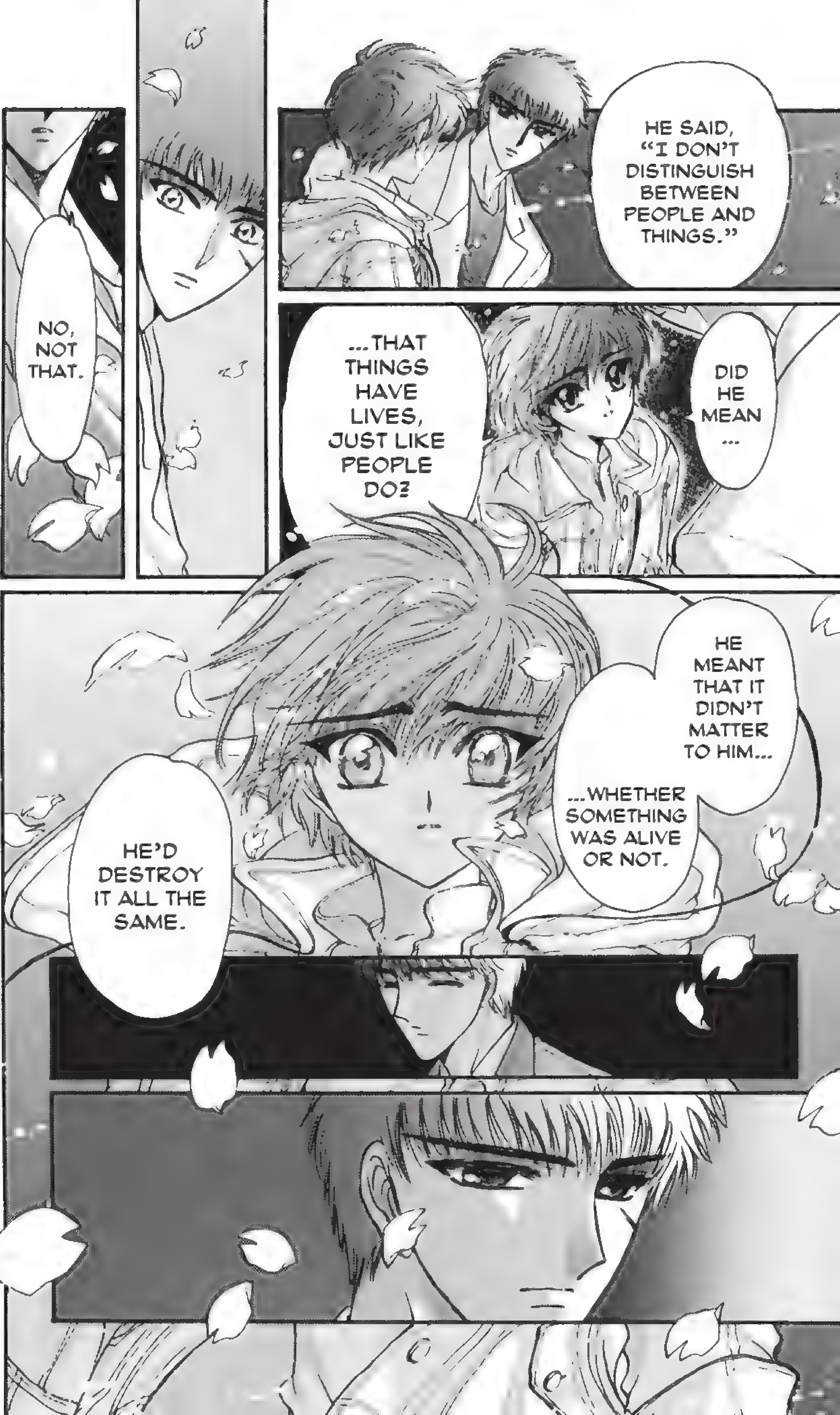

YOU CAN HEAR MY VOICE?
NOD
RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE HIDING DEEP IN YOUR OWN MIND.
IN... MY MIND?
A TERRIBLE THING HAPPENED.
AFTERWARDS, INSTEAD OF DECIDING WHAT PATH TO TAKE, YOU RAN FROM THE REAL WORLD AND CAME HERE.

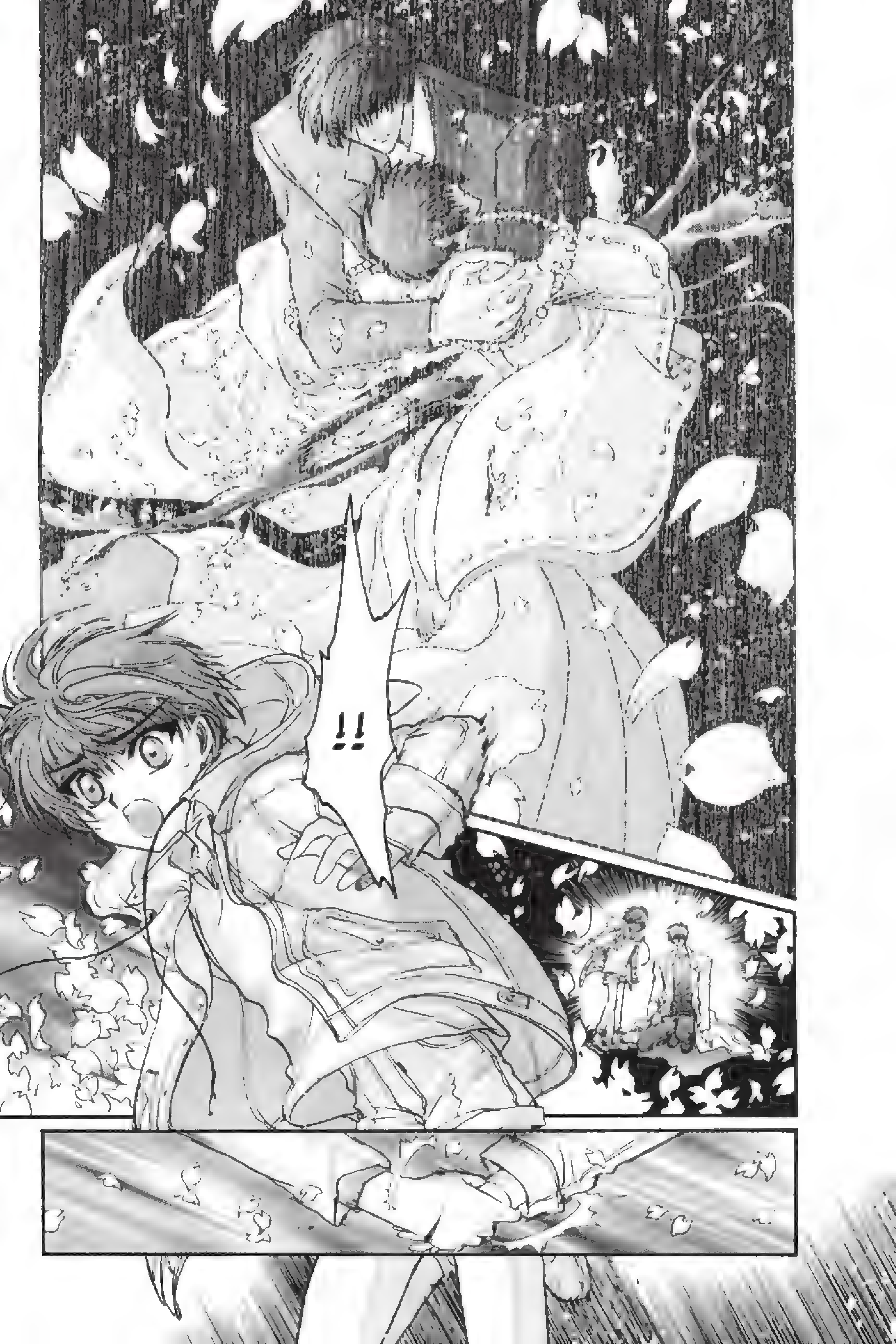

YOU ARE...
...TRYING TO ESCAPE REALITY.
WHO IS SHE?
MY OLDER SISTER.

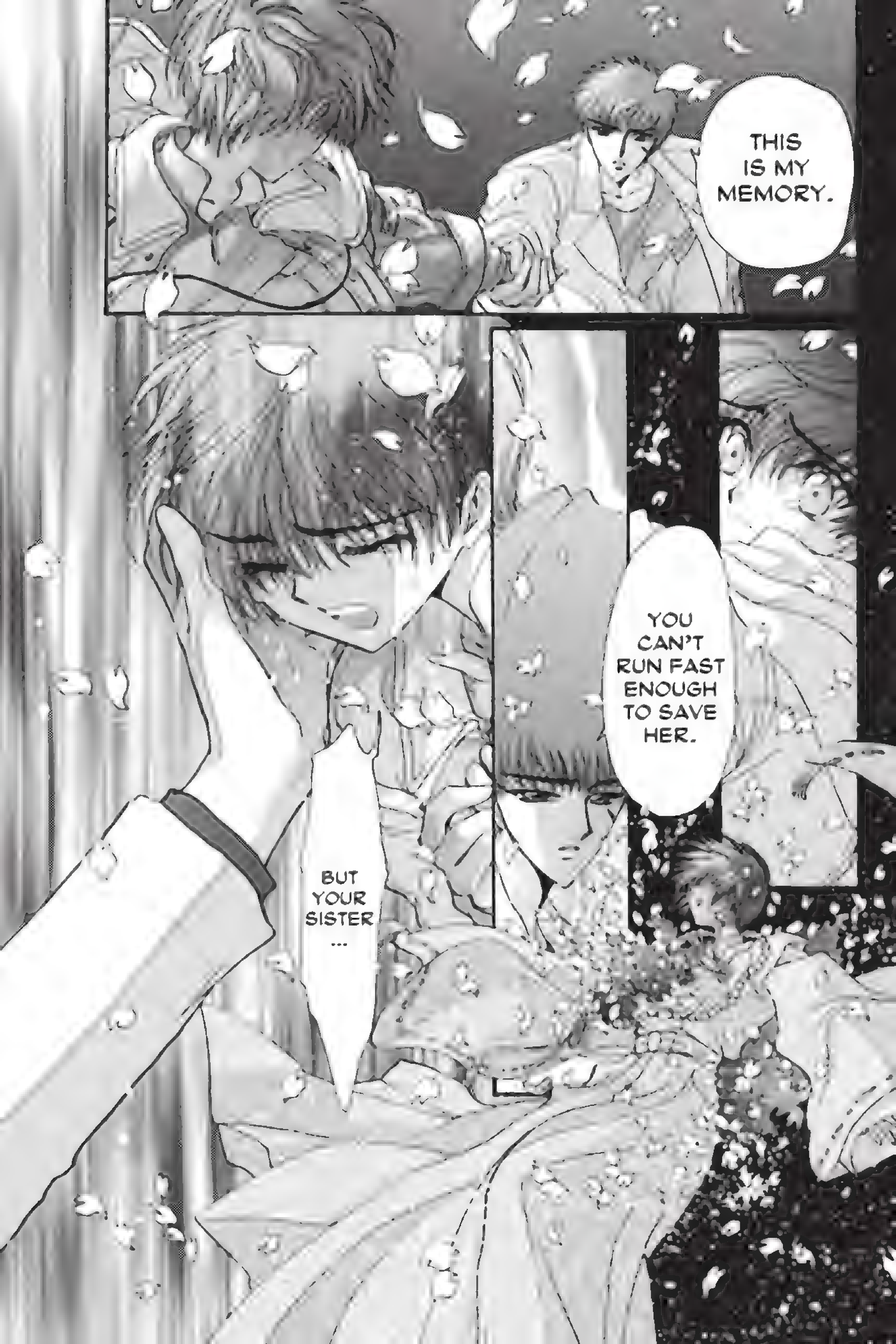

DO YOU KNOW WHAT ONMYOJI ARE?
YES, MY MOM TOLD ME.
I'M THE HEAD OF THE SUMERAGI CLAN.
AND THUS, THE HEAD OF ALL ONMYOJI IN JAPAN.
IS SHE...
...AN ONMYOJI TOO?
NO, SHE'S NOT...

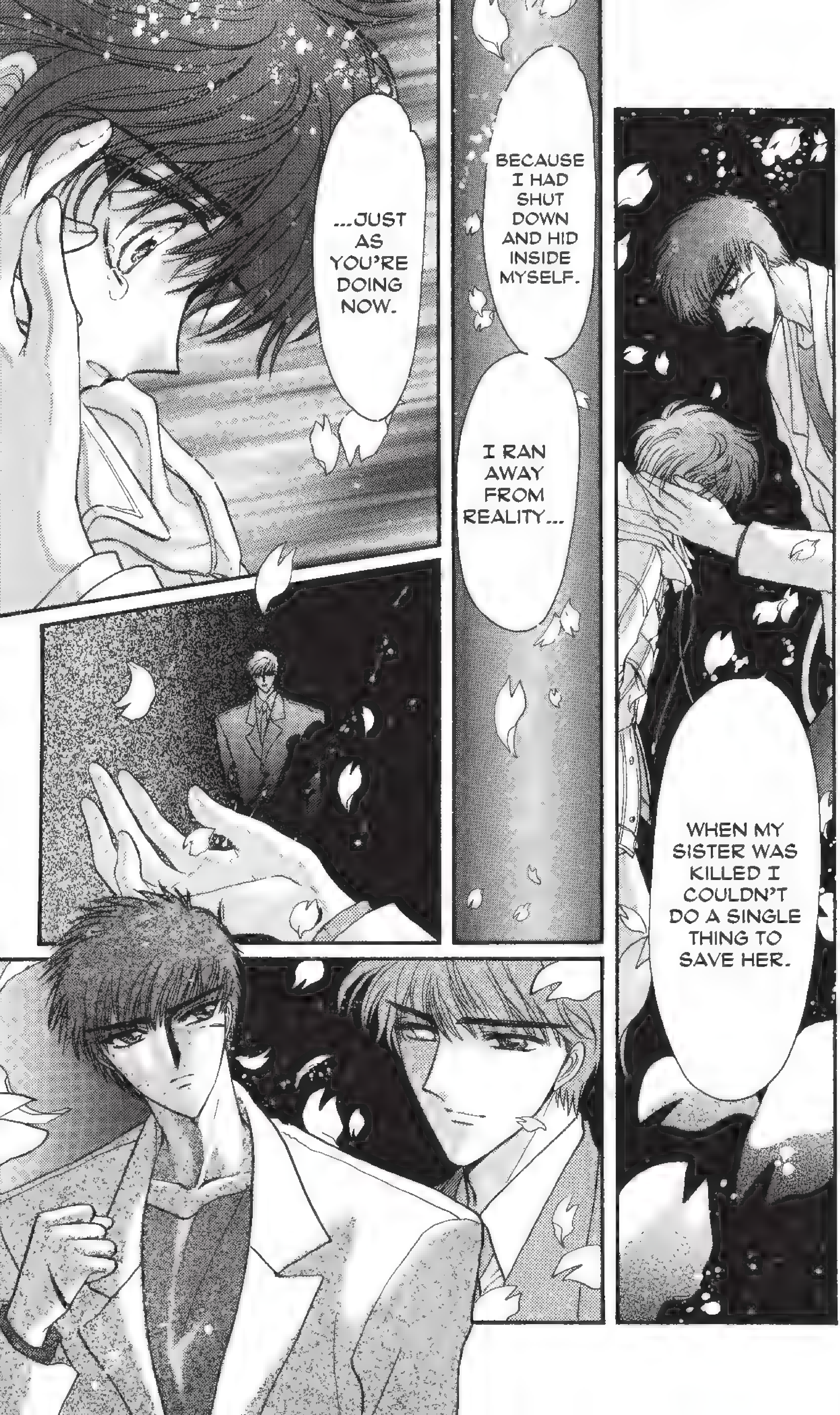

I KNOW THAT MAN...
YOU'VE ENCOUNTERED SEISHIRO?
“SEISHIRO”?
HIS NAME IS SEISHIRO SAKURAZUKA.
HE IS THE GUARDIAN OF THE CHERRY BLOSSOM BARROW, ONE WHO USES ONMYO MAGIC TO KILL PEOPLE.
AND HE IS SOMEONE I FELL IN LOVE WITH.
AT FIRST, I DIDN'T REALIZE IT.
FOR ONE WHOLE YEAR HE WAS INCREDIBLY KIND.
HE EVEN LOST THE SIGHT IN HIS RIGHT EYE WHILE PROTECTING ME.
THAT WAS WHEN IT STARTED.

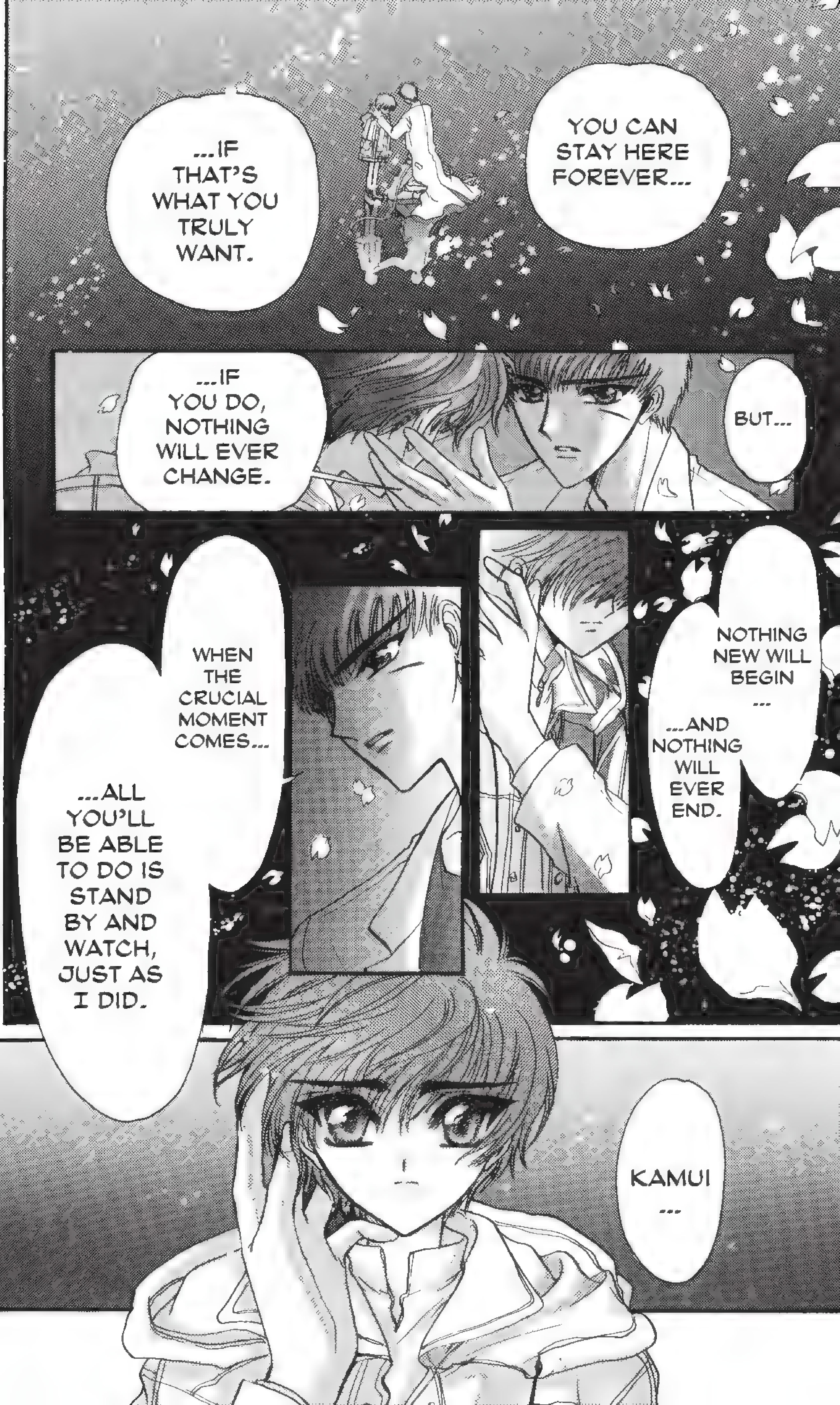

HE WAS THE ONE PERSON IN THIS WORLD I WANTED TO BE CLOSE TO.
HE WAS THE ONE PERSON WHO WAS SPECIAL TO ME.
BUT ...
...IT TURNED OUT I DIDN'T REALLY KNOW HIM AT ALL.

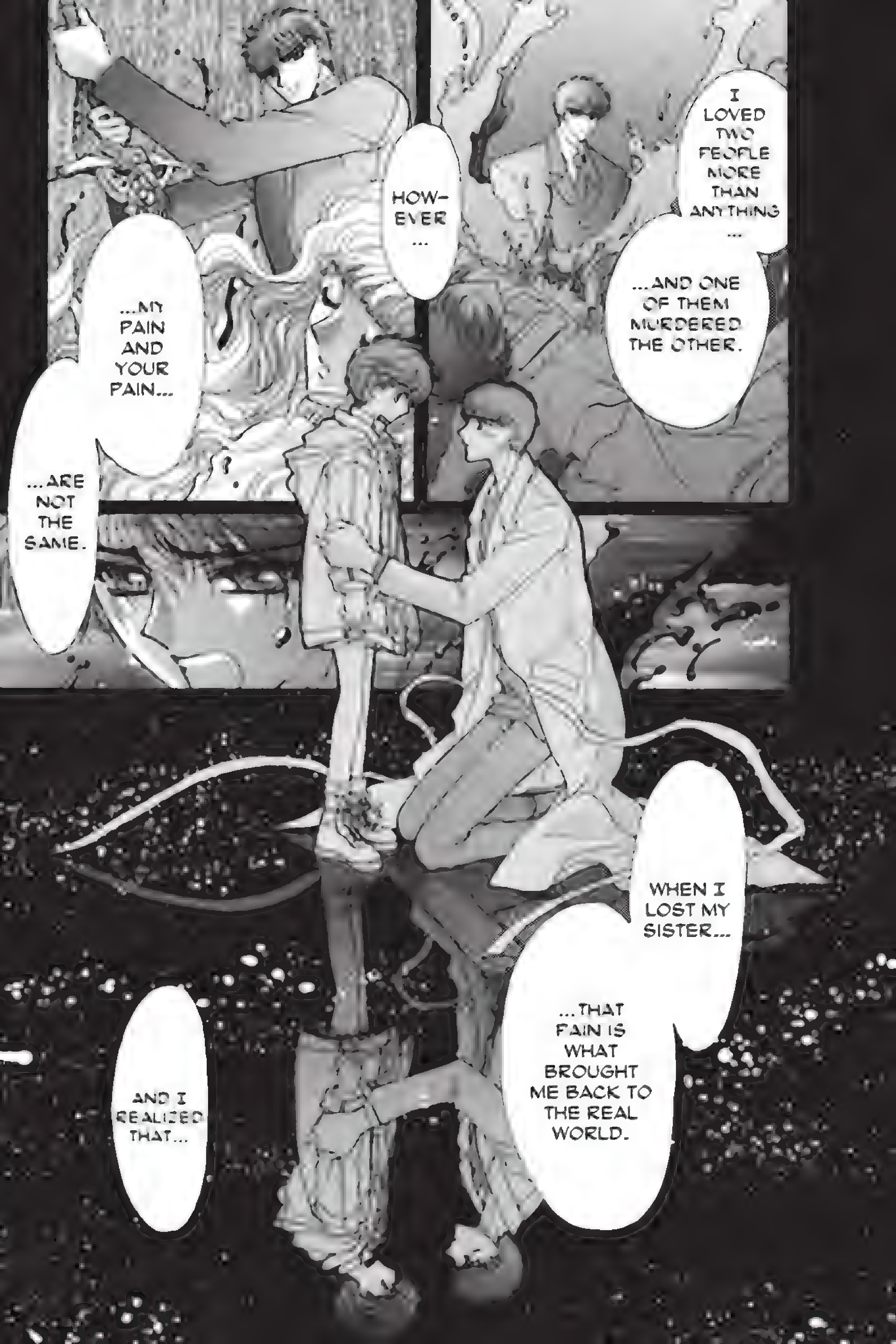

HE SAID, "I DON'T DISTINGUISH BETWEEN PEOPLE AND THINGS."
NO, NOT THAT.
DID HE MEAN ...
...THAT THINGS HAVE LIVES, JUST LIKE PEOPLE DO?
HE MEANT THAT IT DIDN'T MATTER TO HIM...
...WHETHER SOMETHING WAS ALIVE OR NOT.
HE'D DESTROY IT ALL THE SAME.

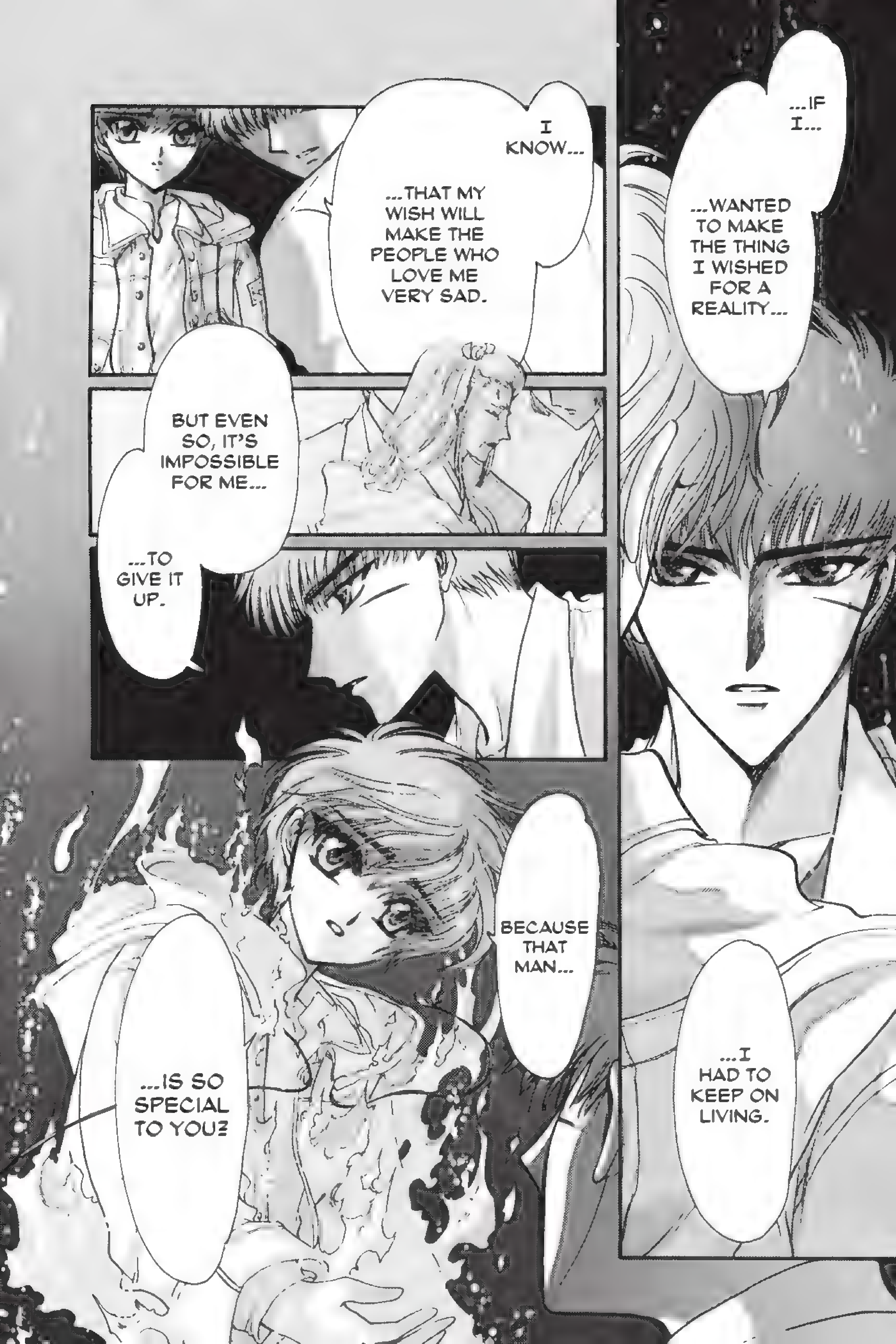


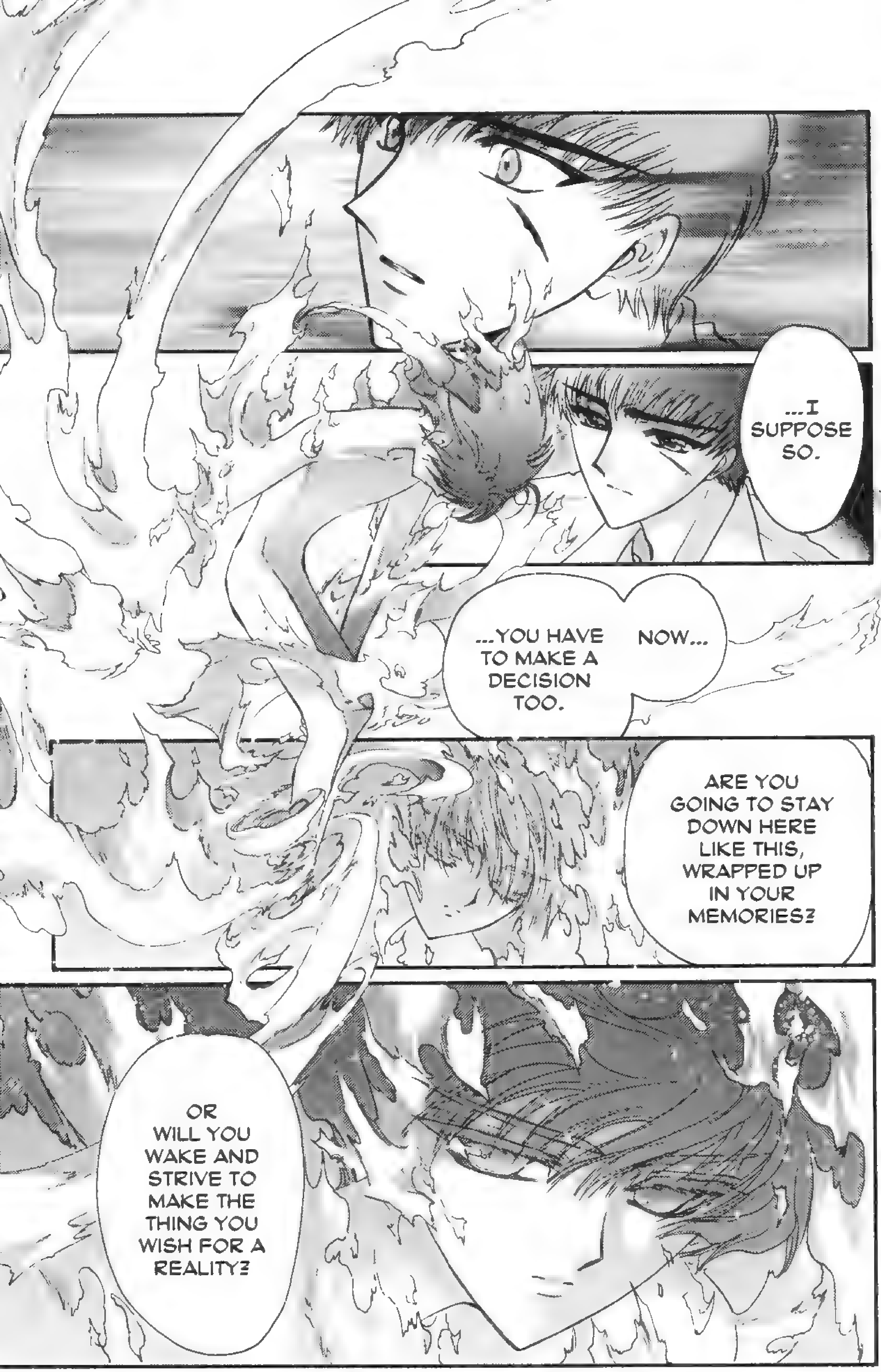

THIS IS MY MEMORY.
YOU CAN'T RUN FAST ENOUGH TO SAVE HER.
BUT YOUR SISTER ...

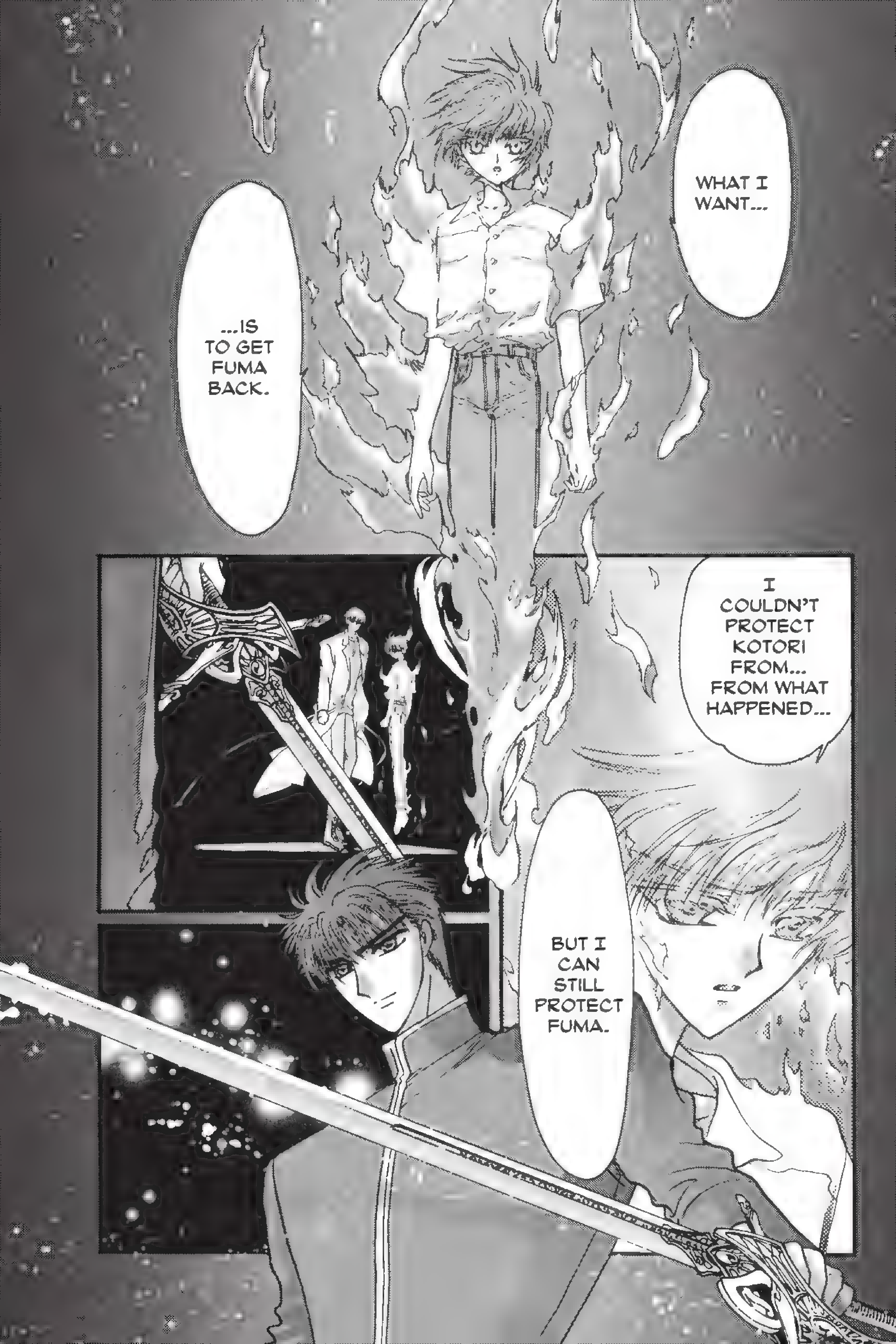

WHEN MY SISTER WAS KILLED I COULDN'T DO A SINGLE THING TO SAVE HER.
BECAUSE I HAD SHUT DOWN AND HID INSIDE MYSELF.
I RAN AWAY FROM REALITY...
...JUST AS YOU'RE DOING NOW.

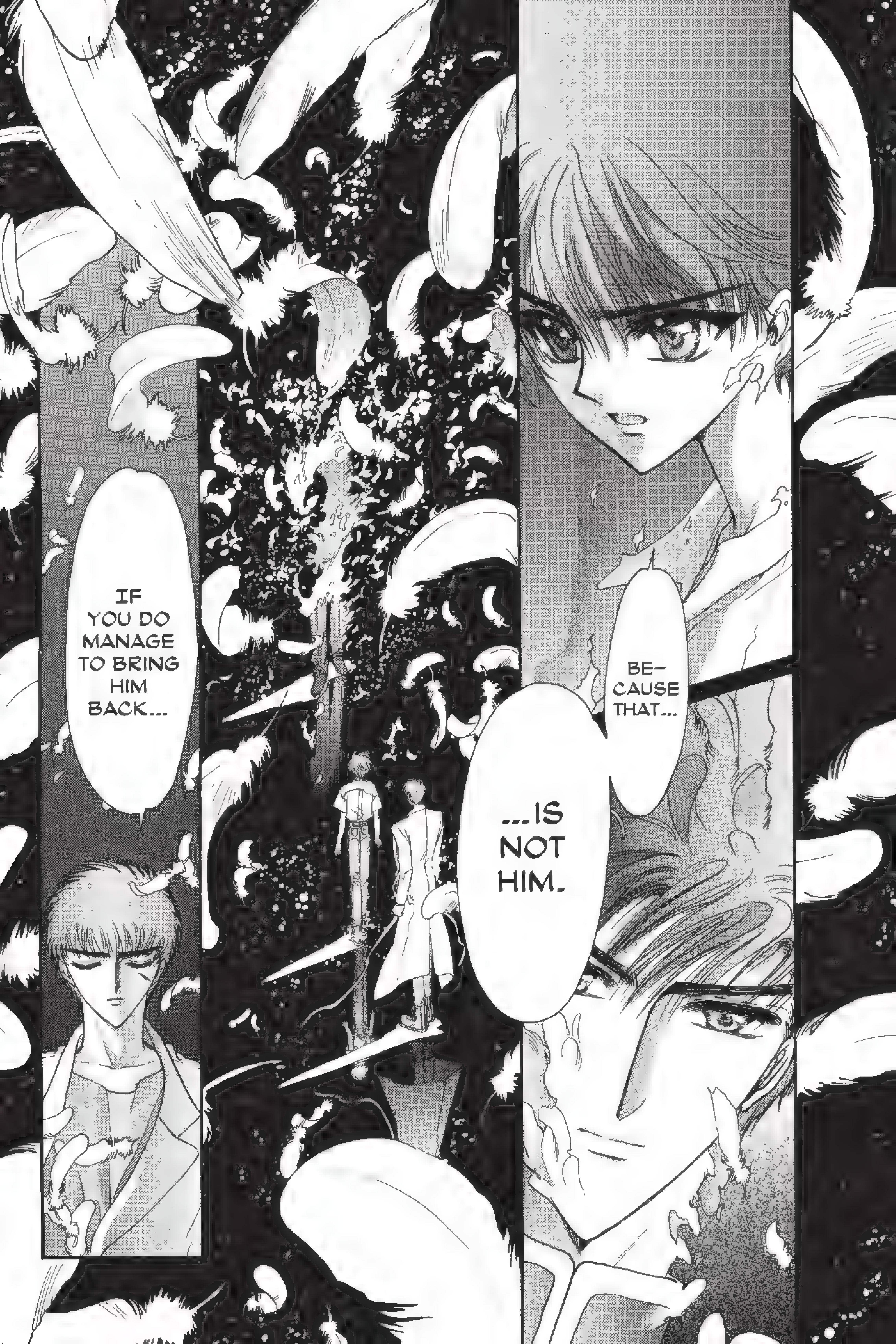

YOU CAN STAY HERE FOREVER...
...IF THAT'S WHAT YOU TRULY WANT.
BUT...
...IF YOU DO, NOTHING WILL EVER CHANGE.
NOTHING NEW WILL BEGIN...
...AND NOTHING WILL EVER END.
WHEN THE CRUCIAL MOMENT COMES...
...ALL YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO IS STAND BY AND WATCH, JUST AS I DID.
KAMUI...

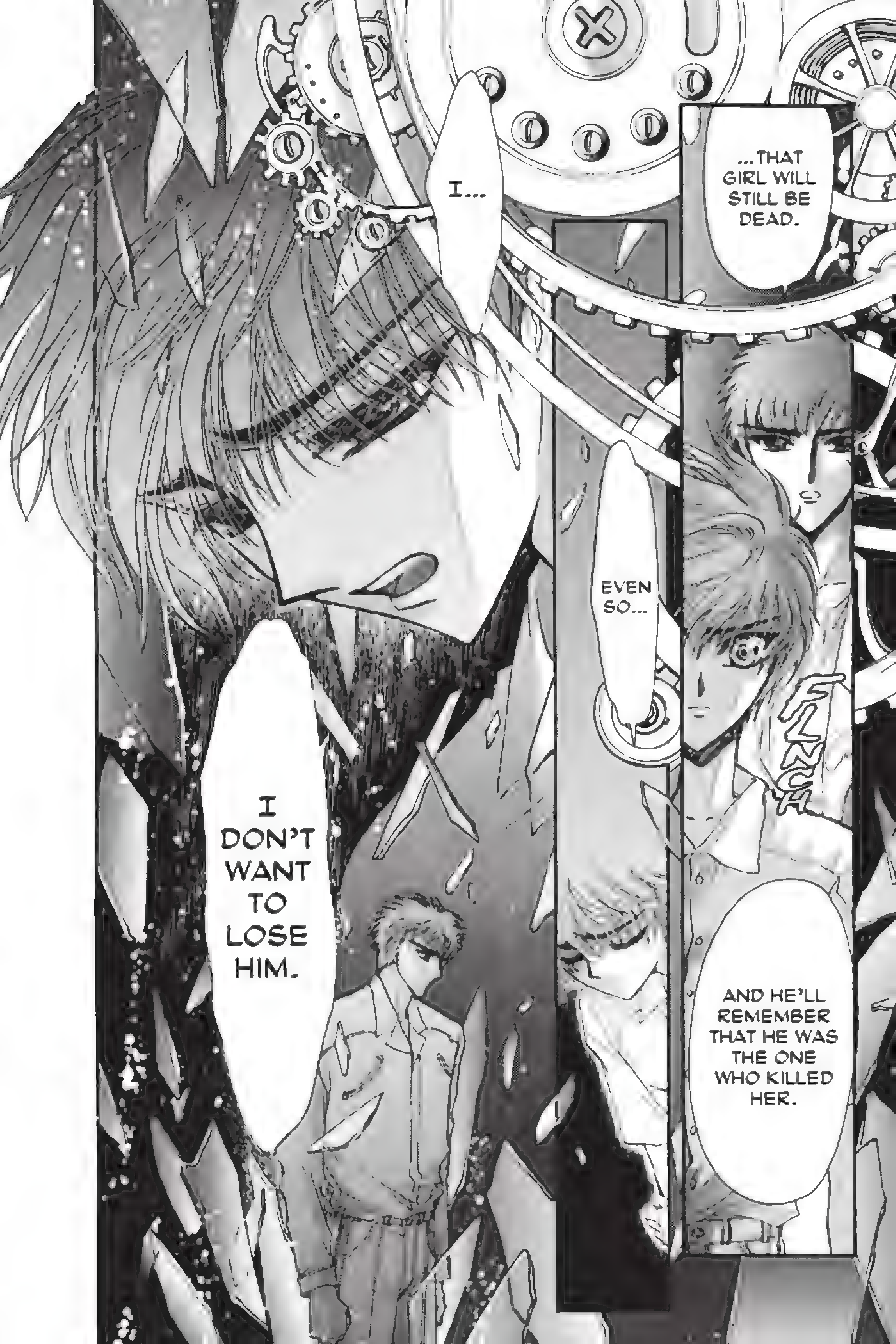

I LOVED TWO PEOPLE MORE THAN ANYTHING...
...AND ONE OF THEM MURDERED THE OTHER.
HOW-EVER...
...MY PAIN AND YOUR PAIN...
...ARE NOT THE SAME.
WHEN I LOST MY SISTER...
...THAT PAIN IS WHAT BROUGHT ME BACK TO THE REAL WORLD.
AND I REALIZED THAT...

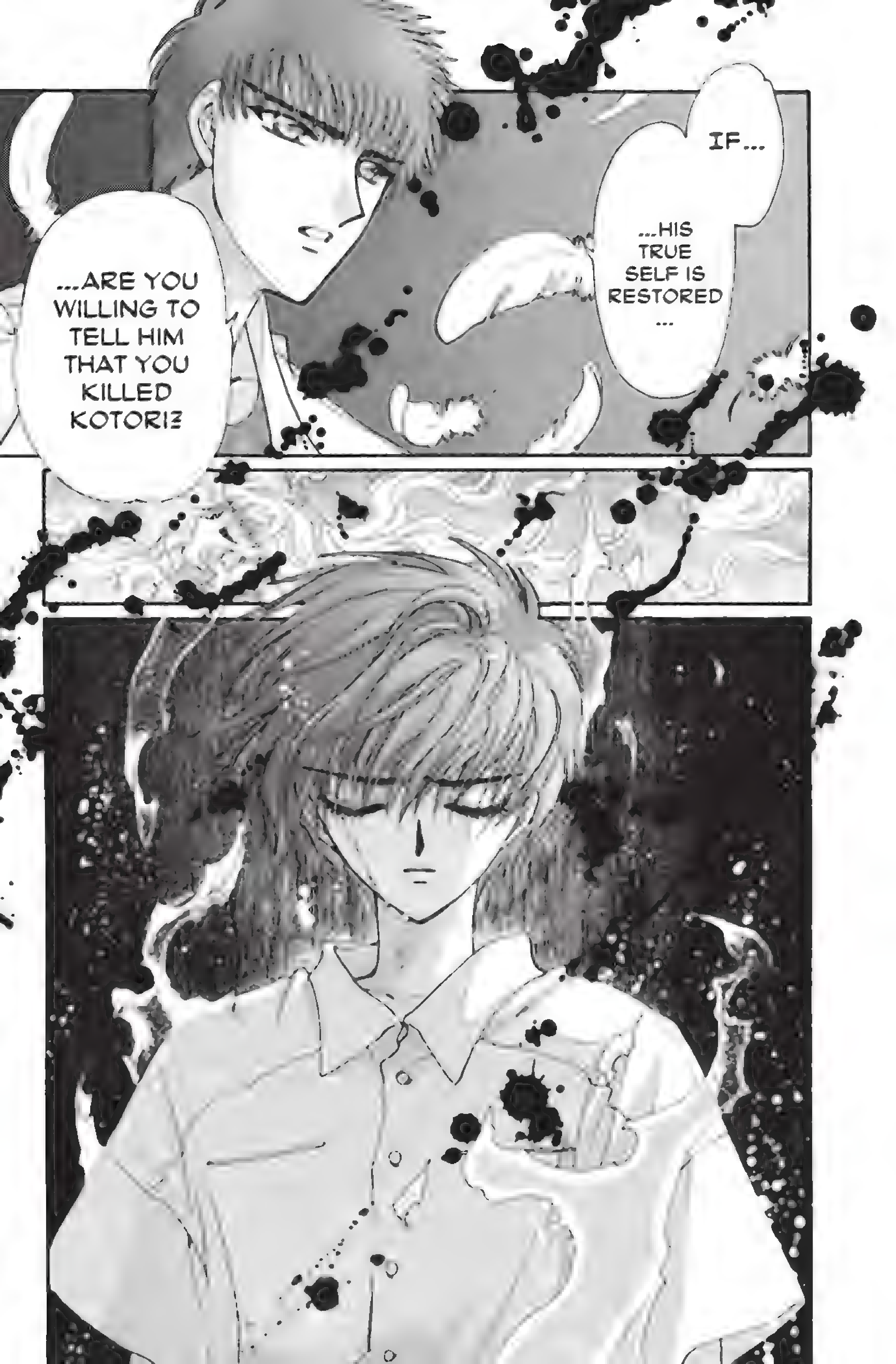

...IF I...
...WANTED TO MAKE THE THING I WISHED FOR A REALITY...
I KNOW...
...THAT MY WISH WILL MAKE THE PEOPLE WHO LOVE ME VERY SAD.
BUT EVEN SO, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME...
...TO GIVE IT UP.
...I HAD TO KEEP ON LIVING.
BECAUSE THAT MAN...
...IS SO SPECIAL TO YOU?

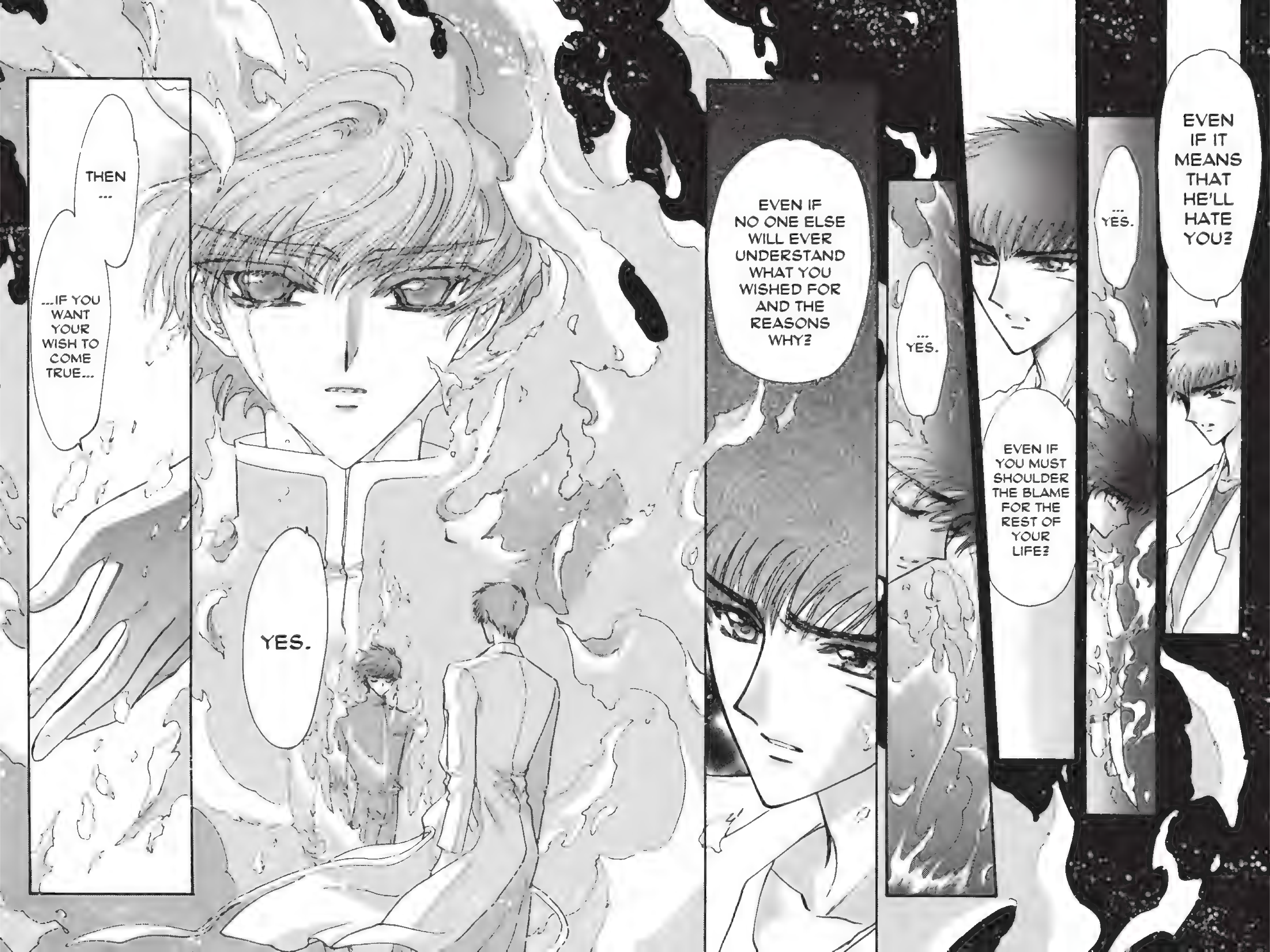

...I SUPPOSE SO.
NOW...
...YOU HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION TOO.
ARE YOU GOING TO STAY DOWN HERE LIKE THIS, WRAPPED UP IN YOUR MEMORIES?
OR WILL YOU WAKE AND STRIVE TO MAKE THE THING YOU WISH FOR A REALITY?

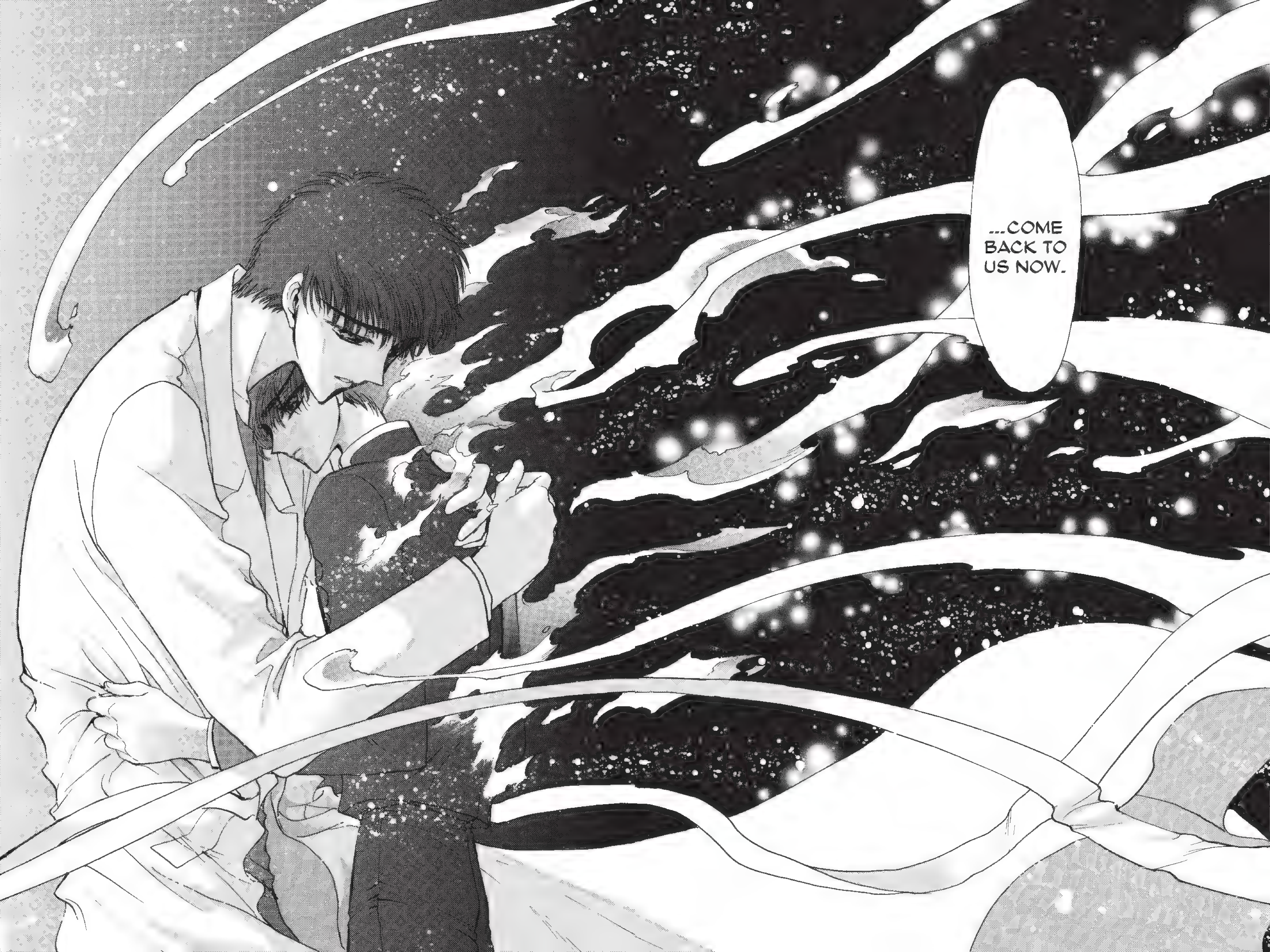

WHAT I WANT...
...IS TO GET FUMA BACK.
I COULDN'T PROTECT KOTORI FROM... FROM WHAT HAPPENED...
BUT I CAN STILL PROTECT FUMA.

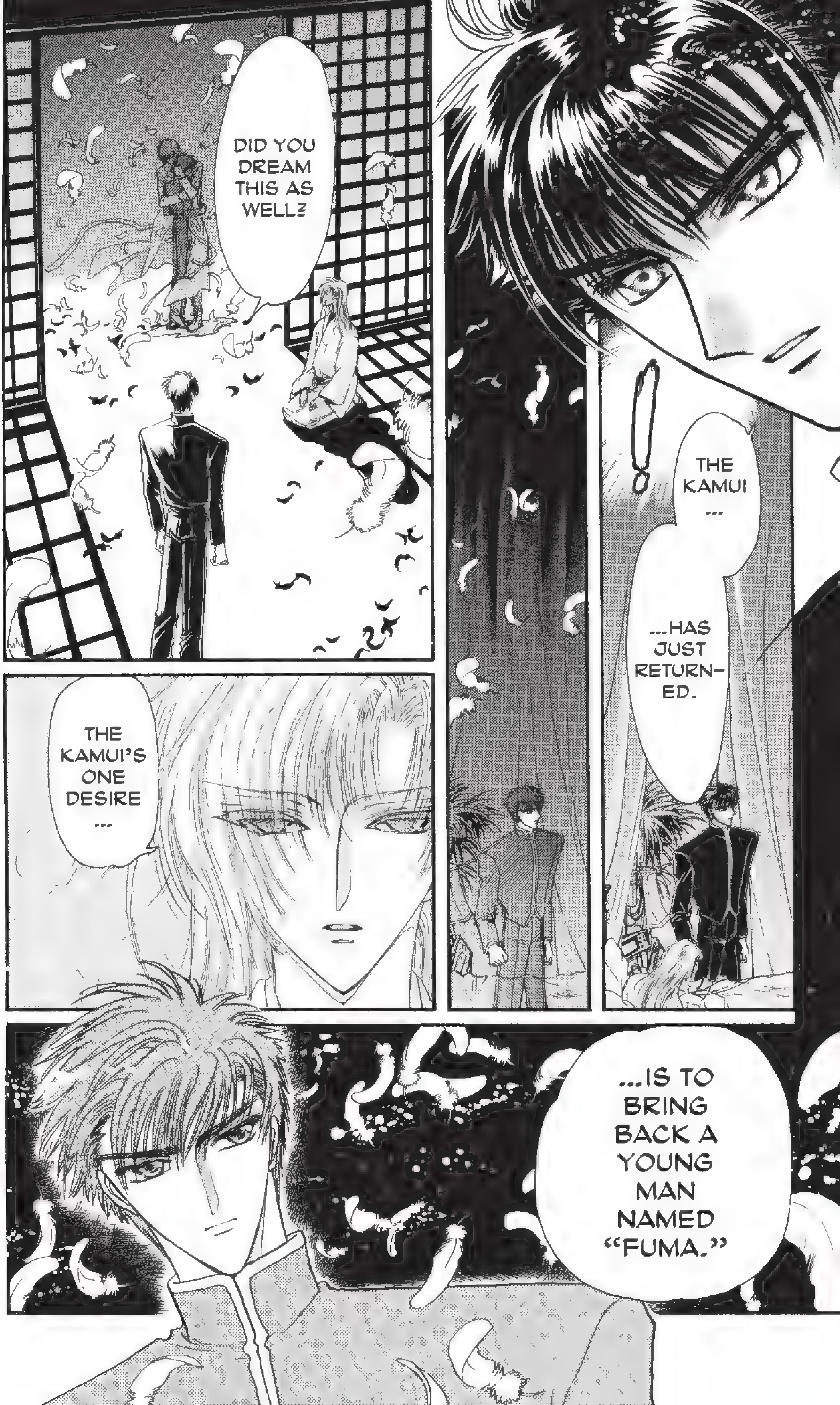

BE-CAUSE THAT...
...IS NOT HIM.
IF YOU DO MANAGE TO BRING HIM BACK...

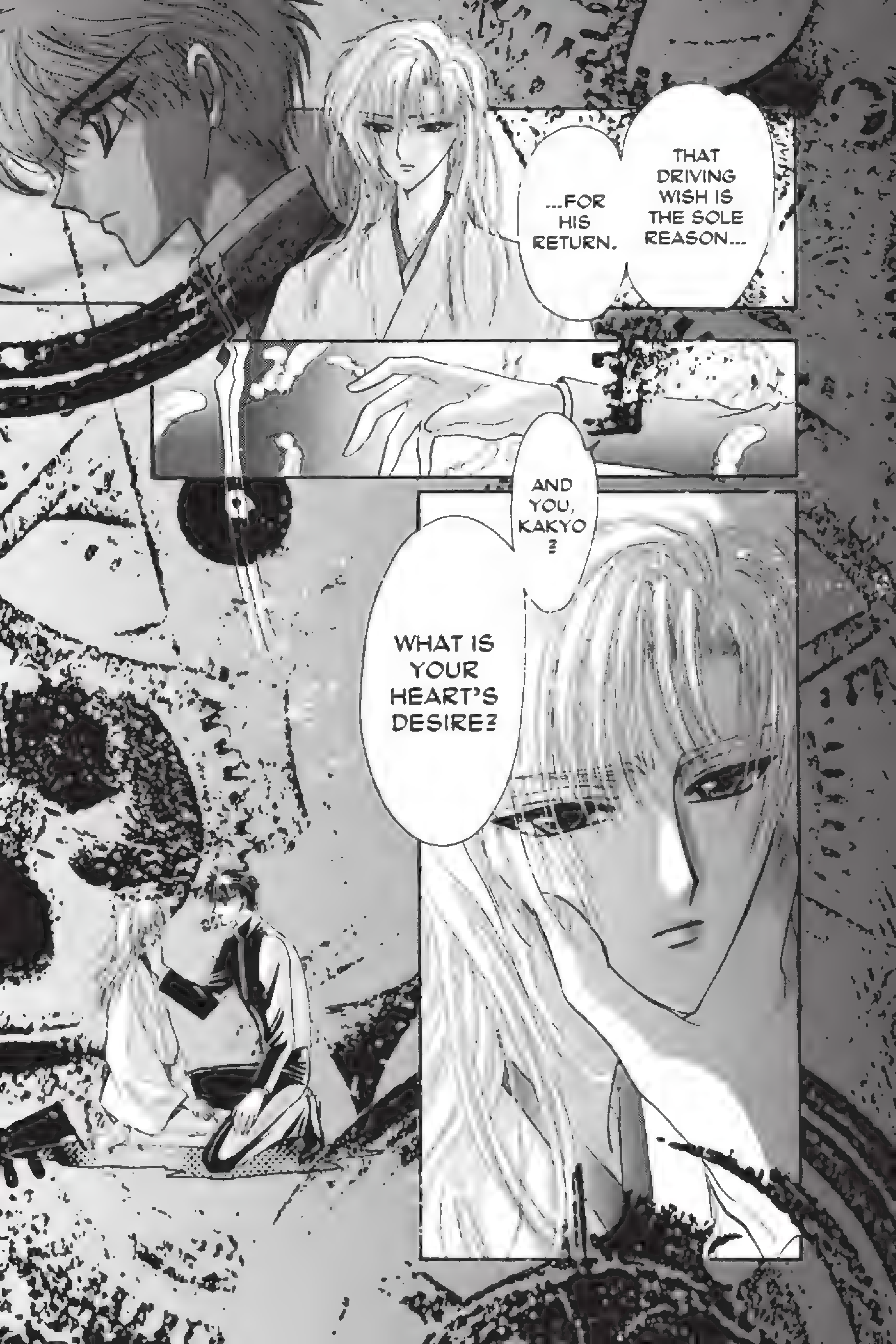

...THAT GIRL WILL STILL BE DEAD.
AND HE'LL REMEMBER THAT HE WAS THE ONE WHO KILLED HER.
FLINCH
EVEN SO...
I...
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE HIM.

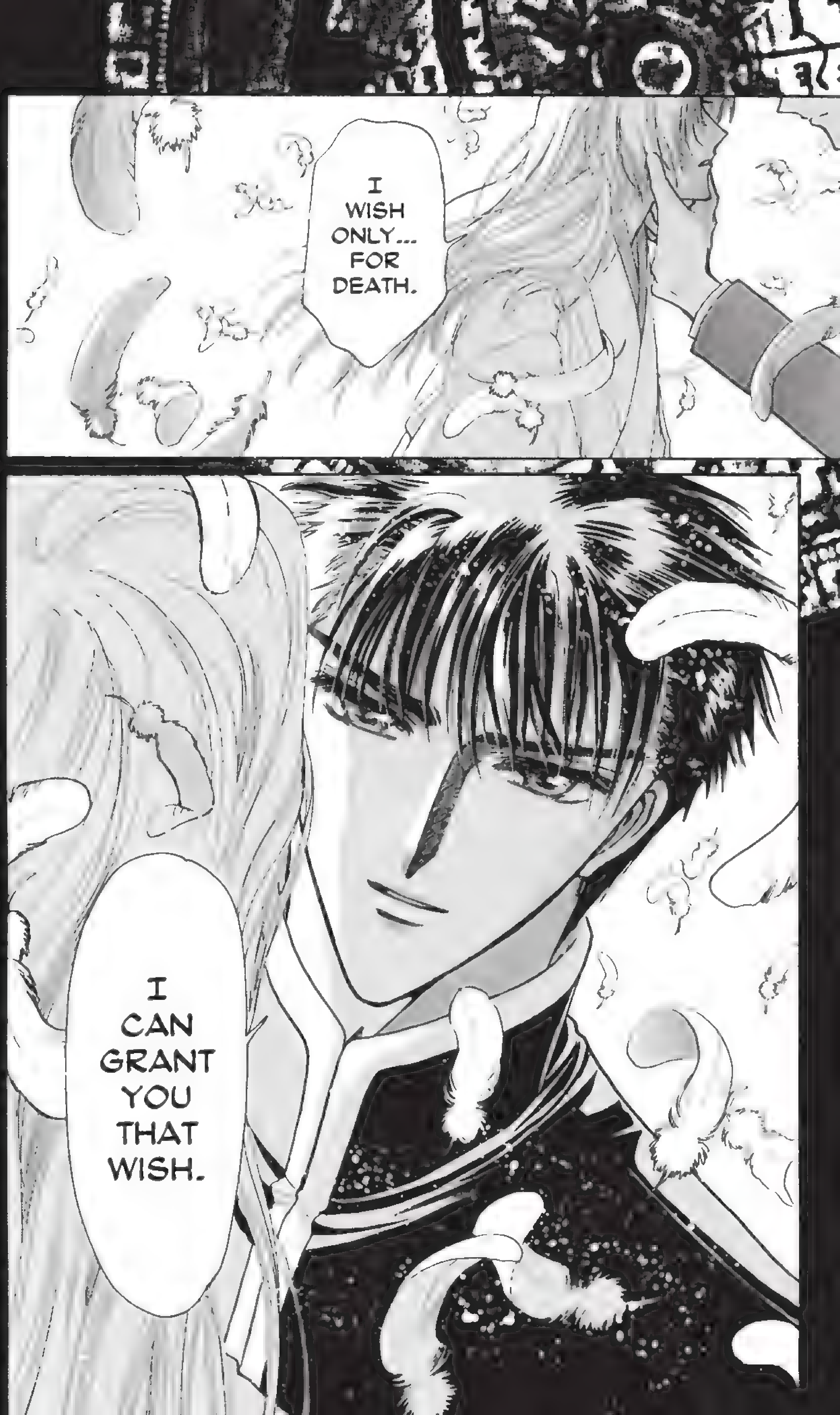

IF...
...HIS TRUE SELF IS RESTORED ...
...ARE YOU WILLING TO TELL HIM THAT YOU KILLED KOTORI?

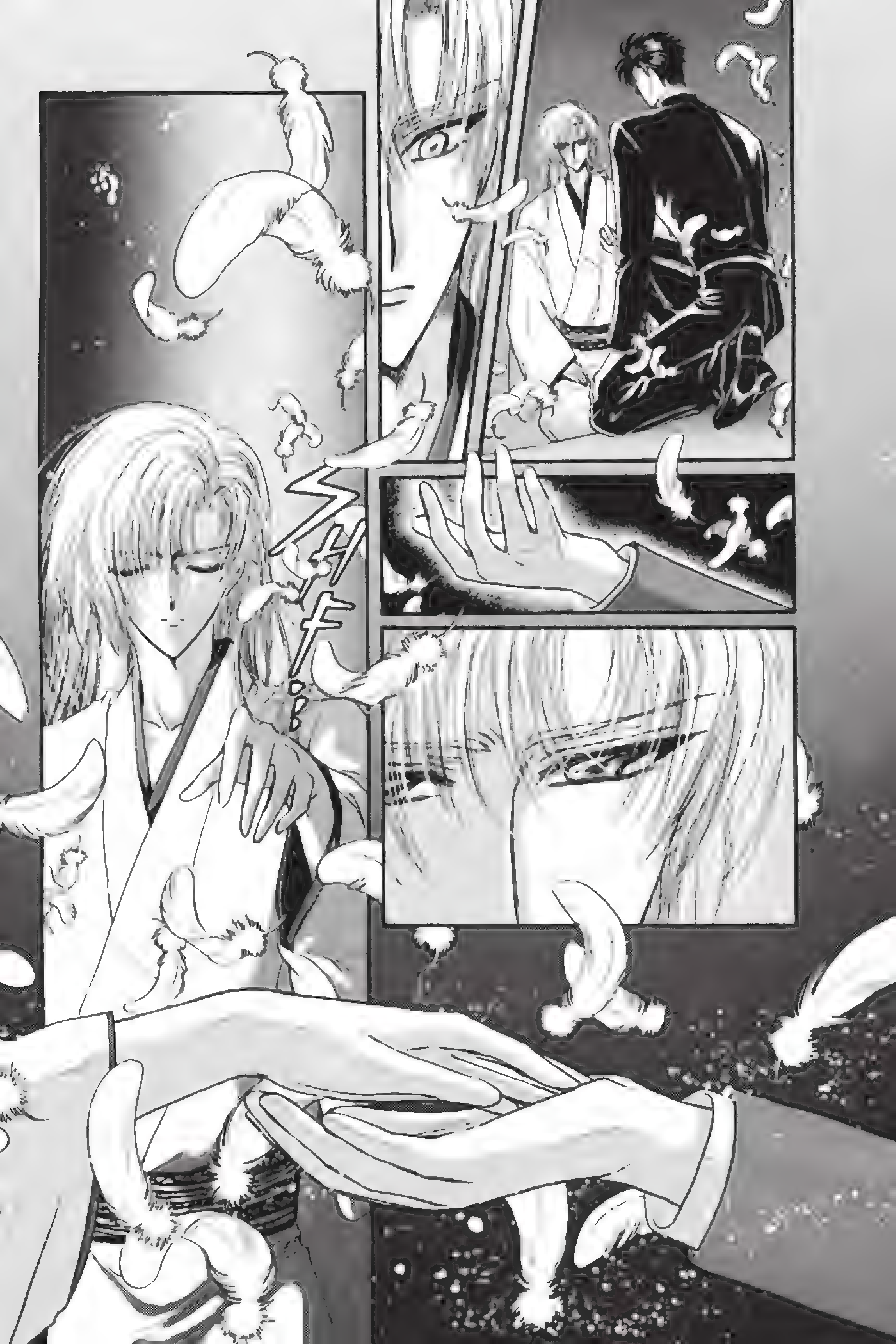

EVEN IF IT MEANS THAT HE'LL HATE YOU?
...YES.
EVEN IF YOU MUST SHOULDER THE BLAME FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?
...YES.
EVEN IF NO ONE ELSE WILL EVER UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU WISHED FOR AND THE REASONS WHY?
THEN...
...IF YOU WANT YOUR WISH TO COME TRUE...
YES.

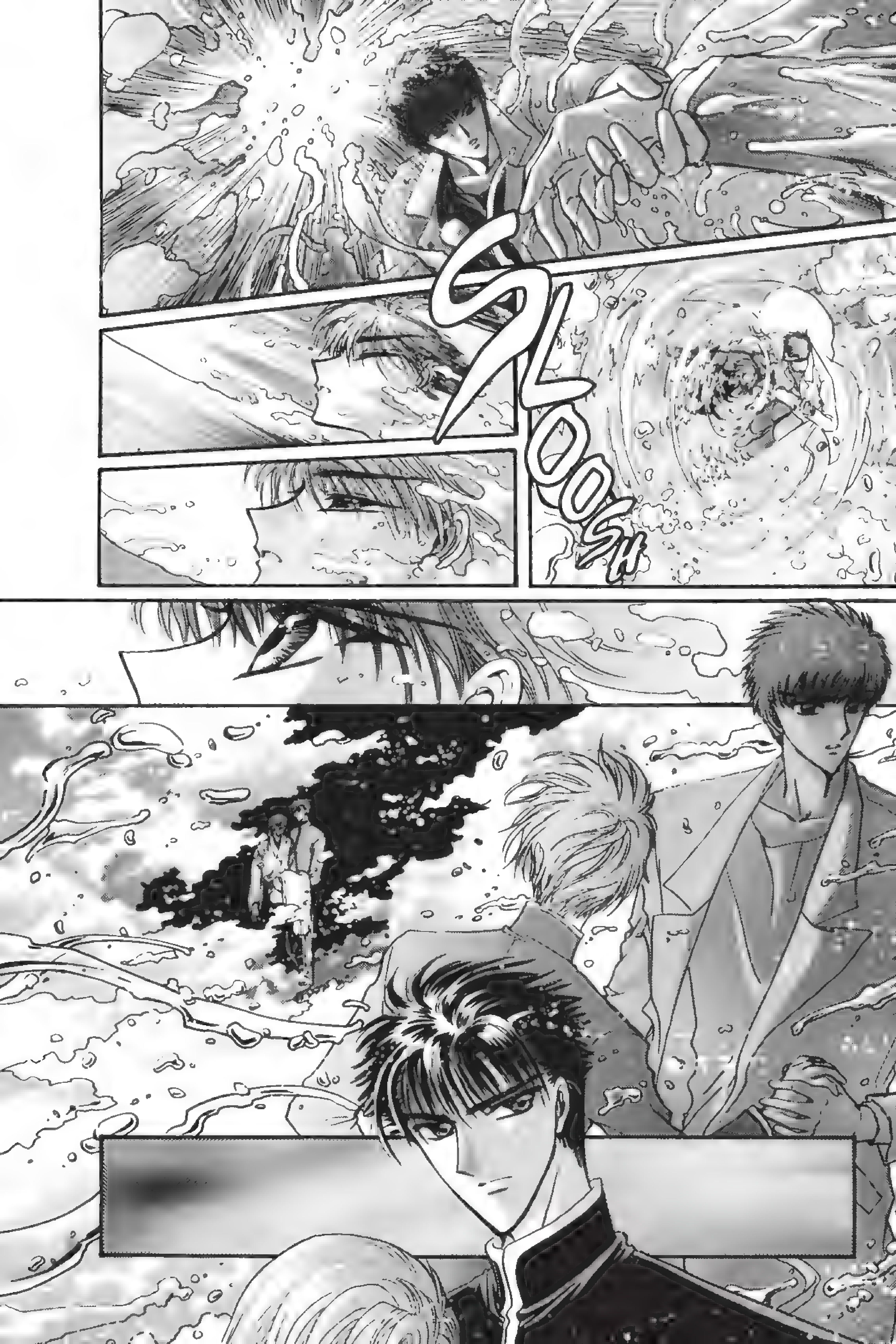

...COME BACK TO US NOW.


THE KAMUI ...
...HAS JUST RETURNED.
DID YOU DREAM THIS AS WELL?
THE KAMUI'S ONE DESIRE ...
...IS TO BRING BACK A YOUNG MAN NAMED "FUMA."

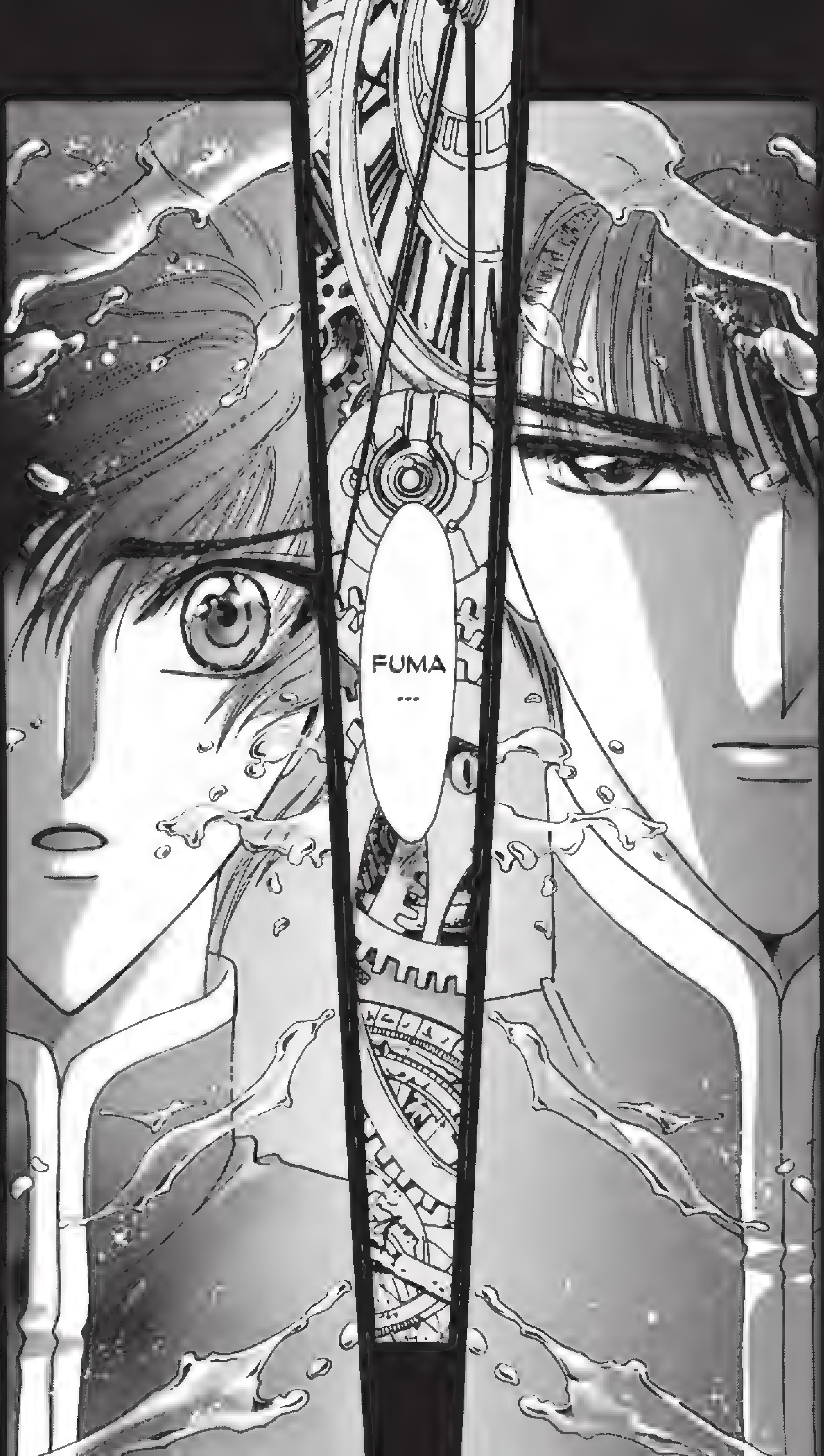

THAT DRIVING WISH IS THE SOLE REASON...
...FOR HIS RETURN.
AND YOU, KAKYO?
WHAT IS YOUR HEART'S DESIRE?

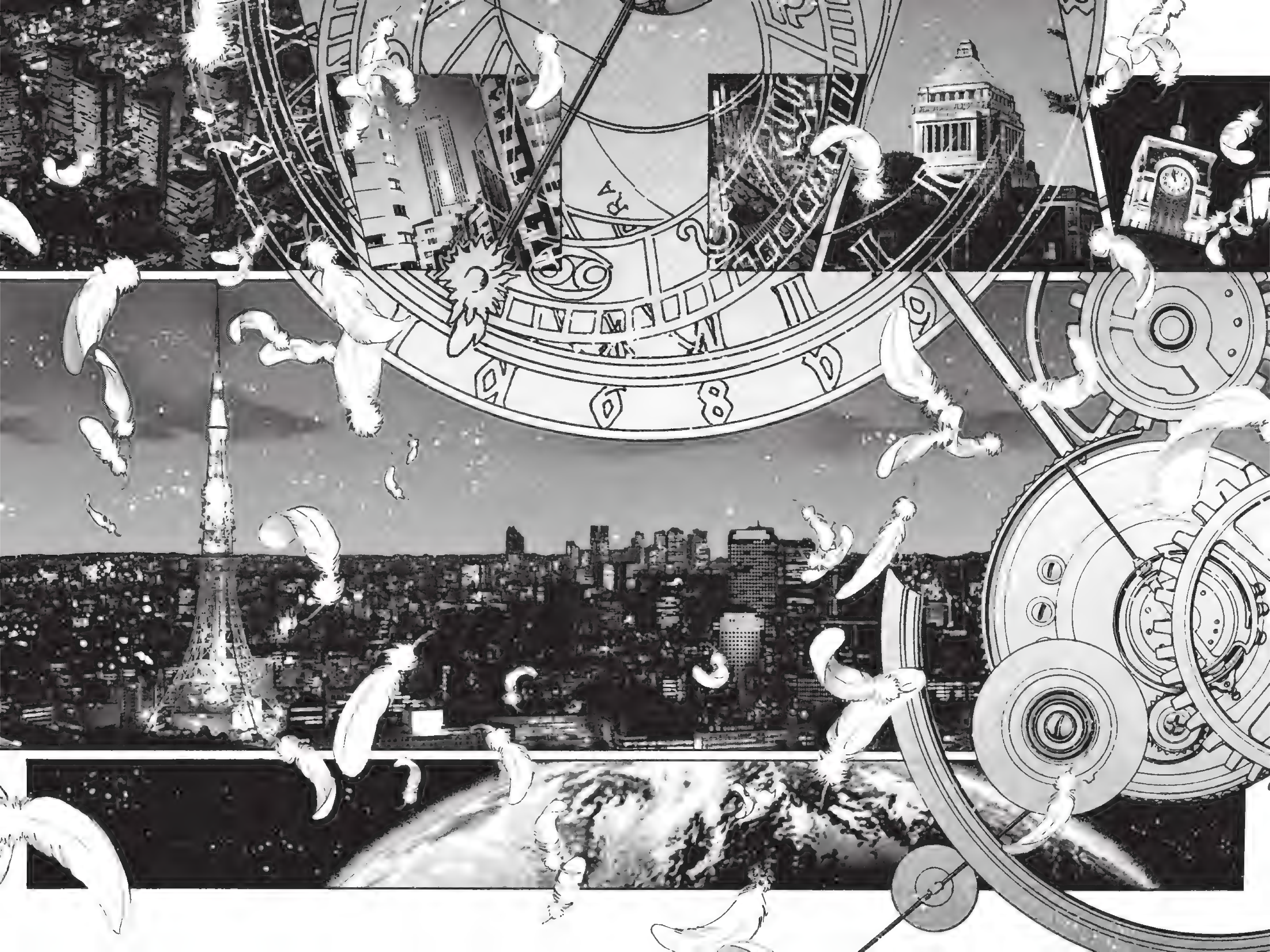

I WISH ONLY... FOR DEATH.
I CAN GRANT YOU THAT WISH.

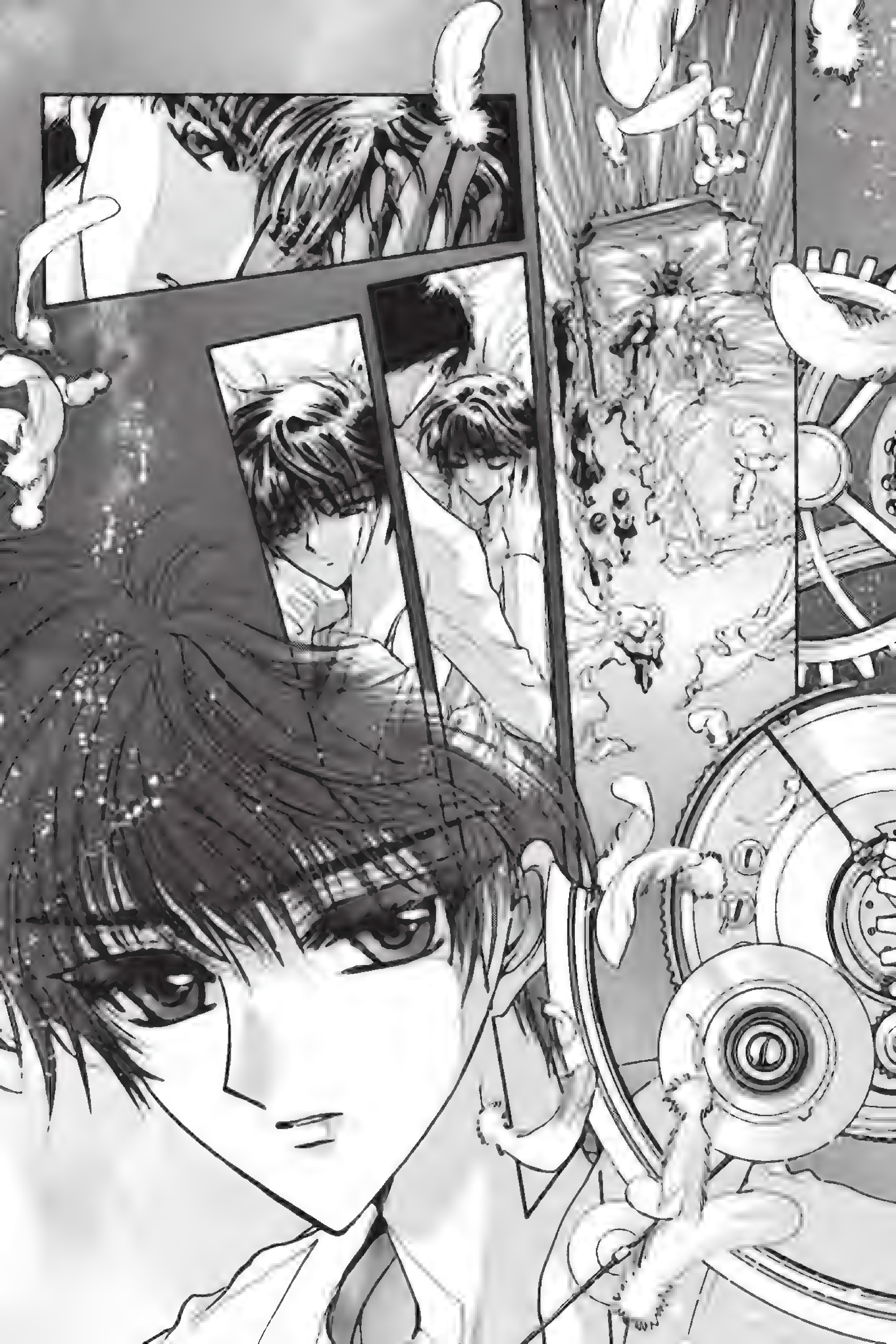

シャキ!!

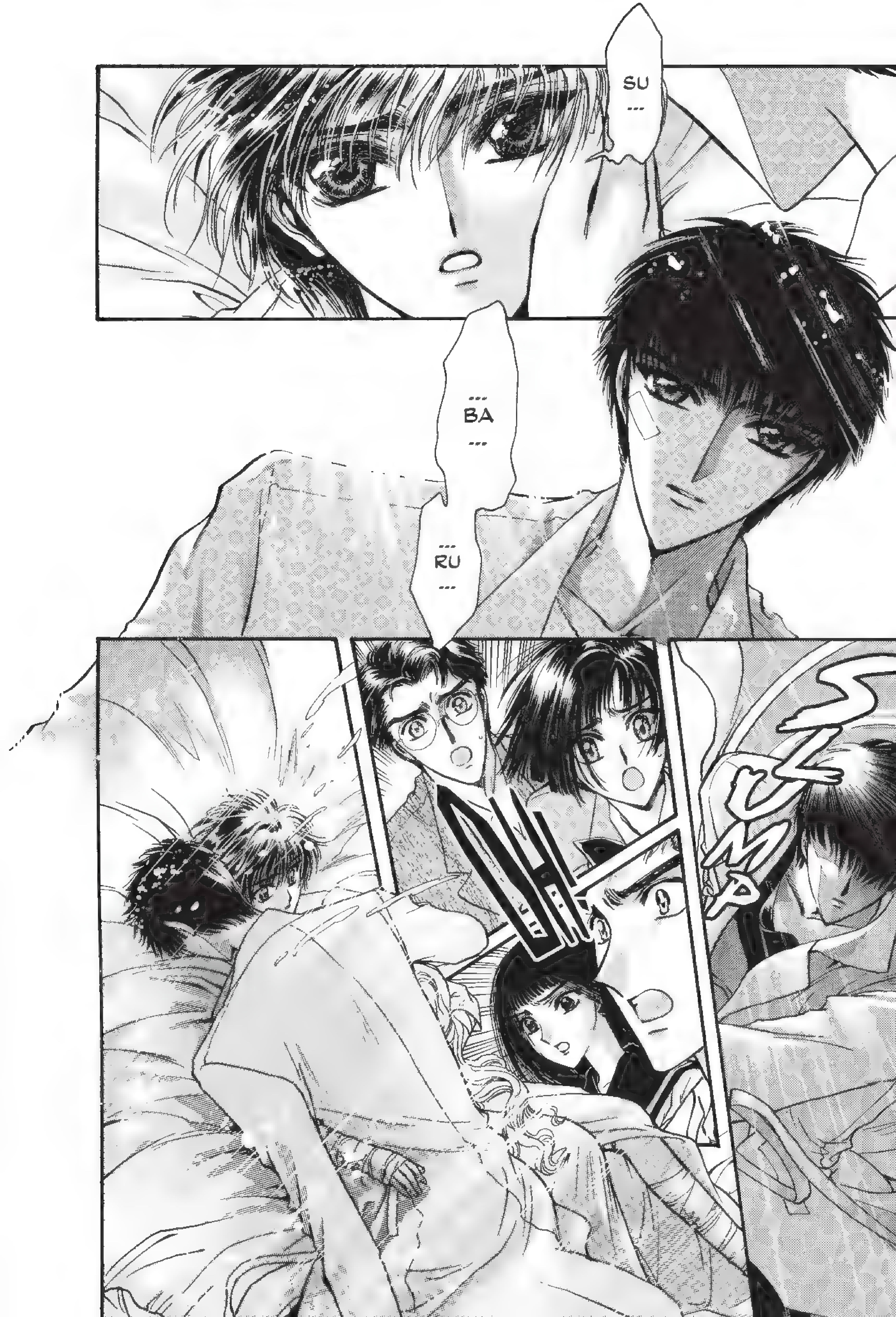


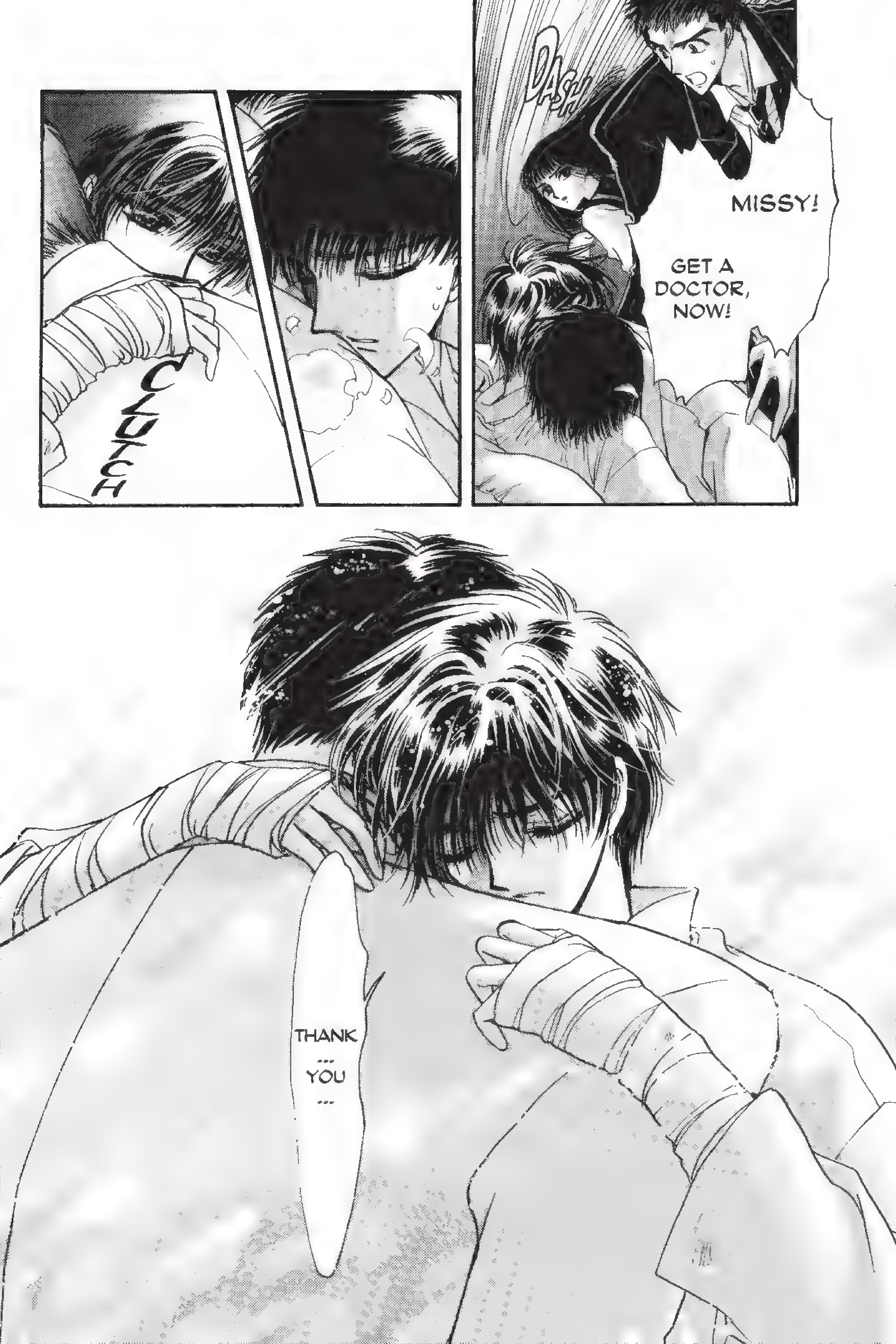
SLOOSH

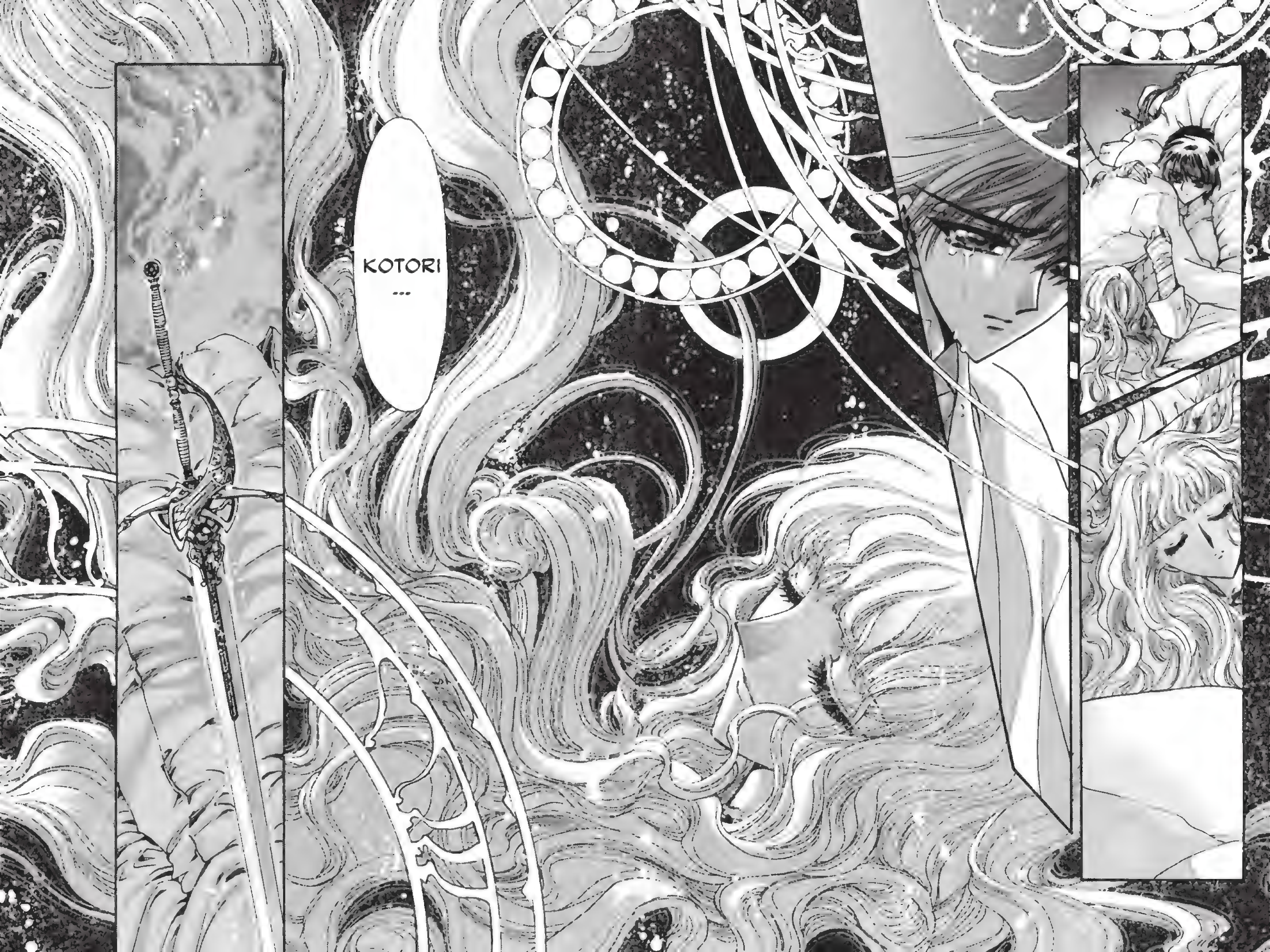

FUMA
...

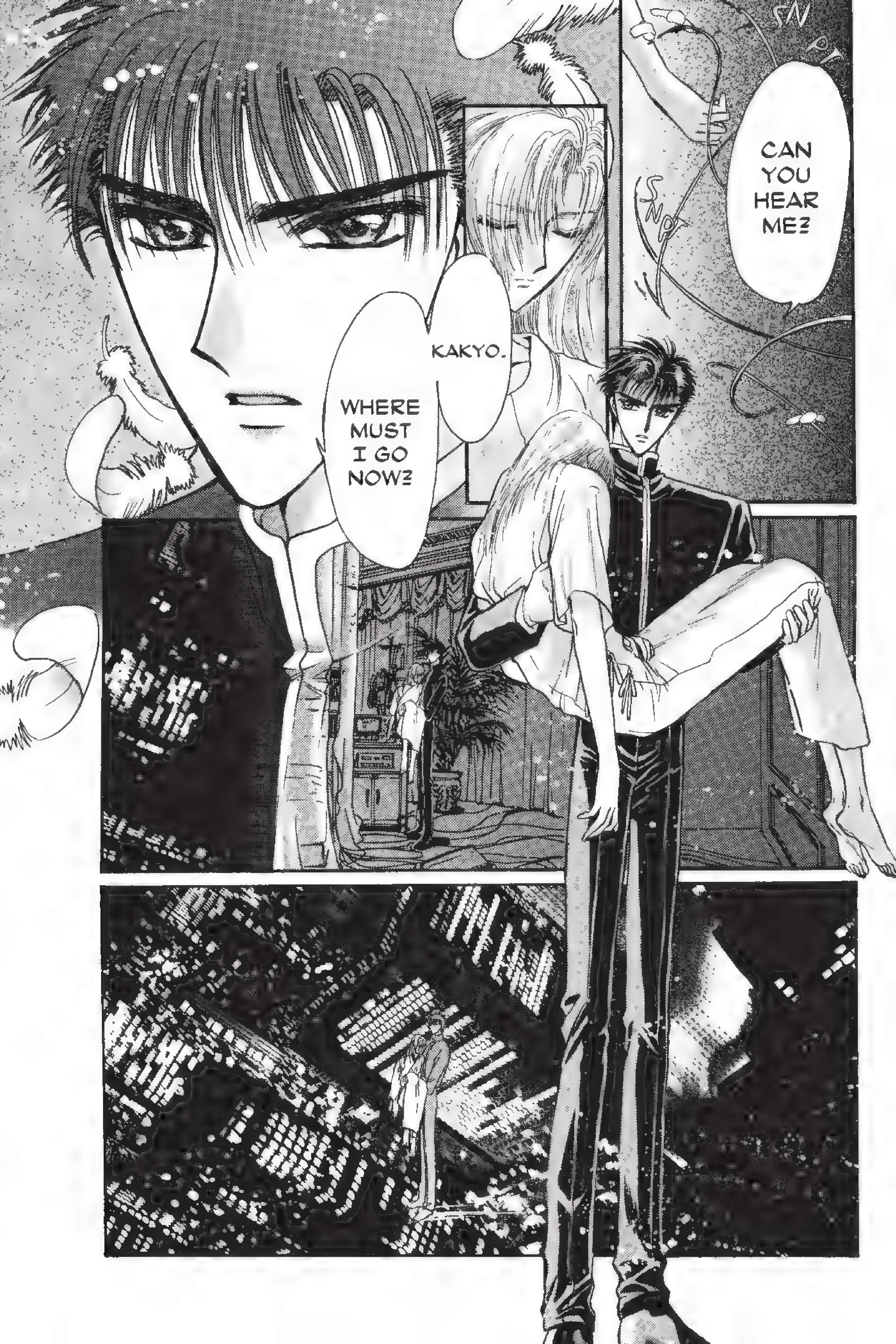


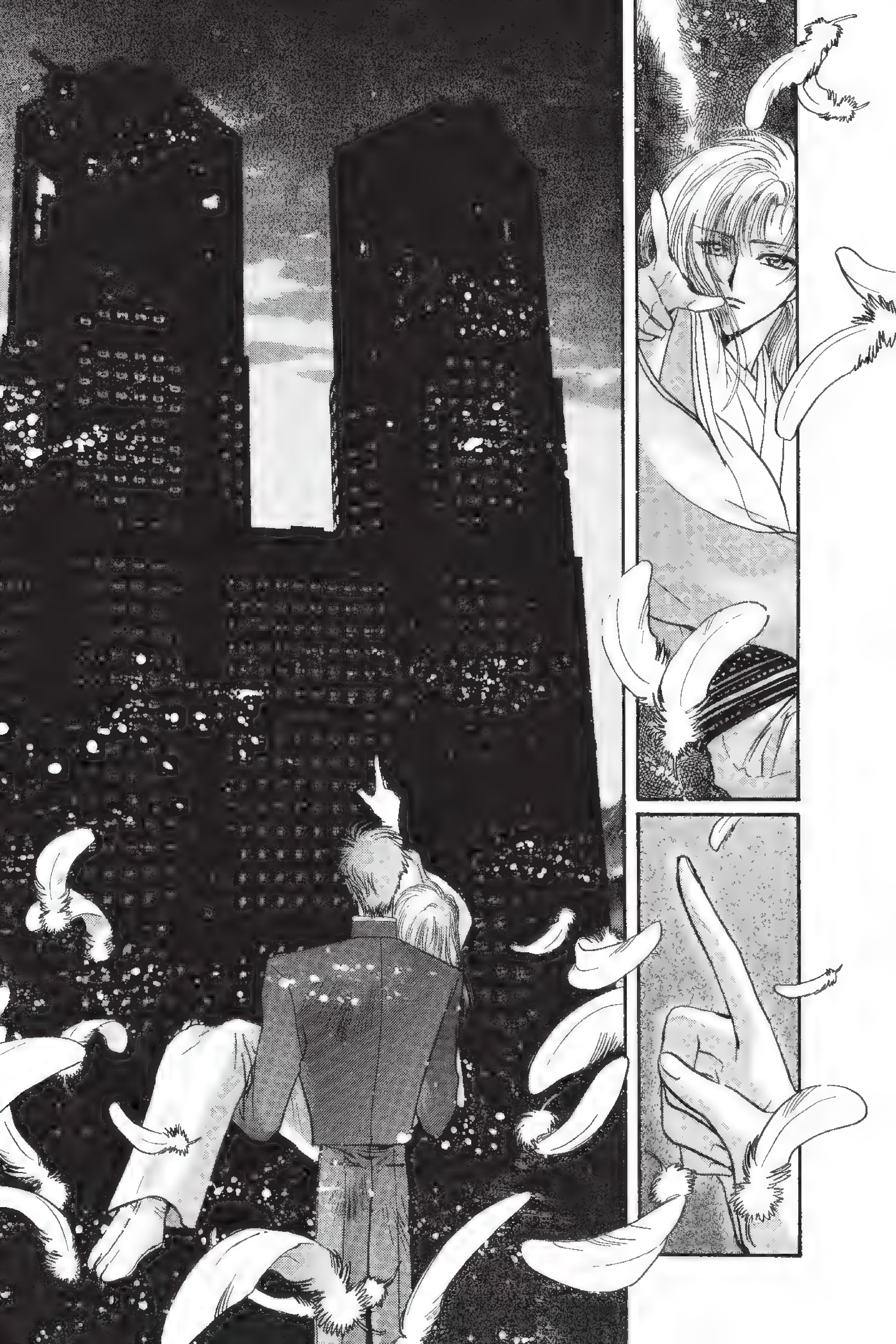



SU ---
--- BA ---
--- RU ---
HUH
SLUMP

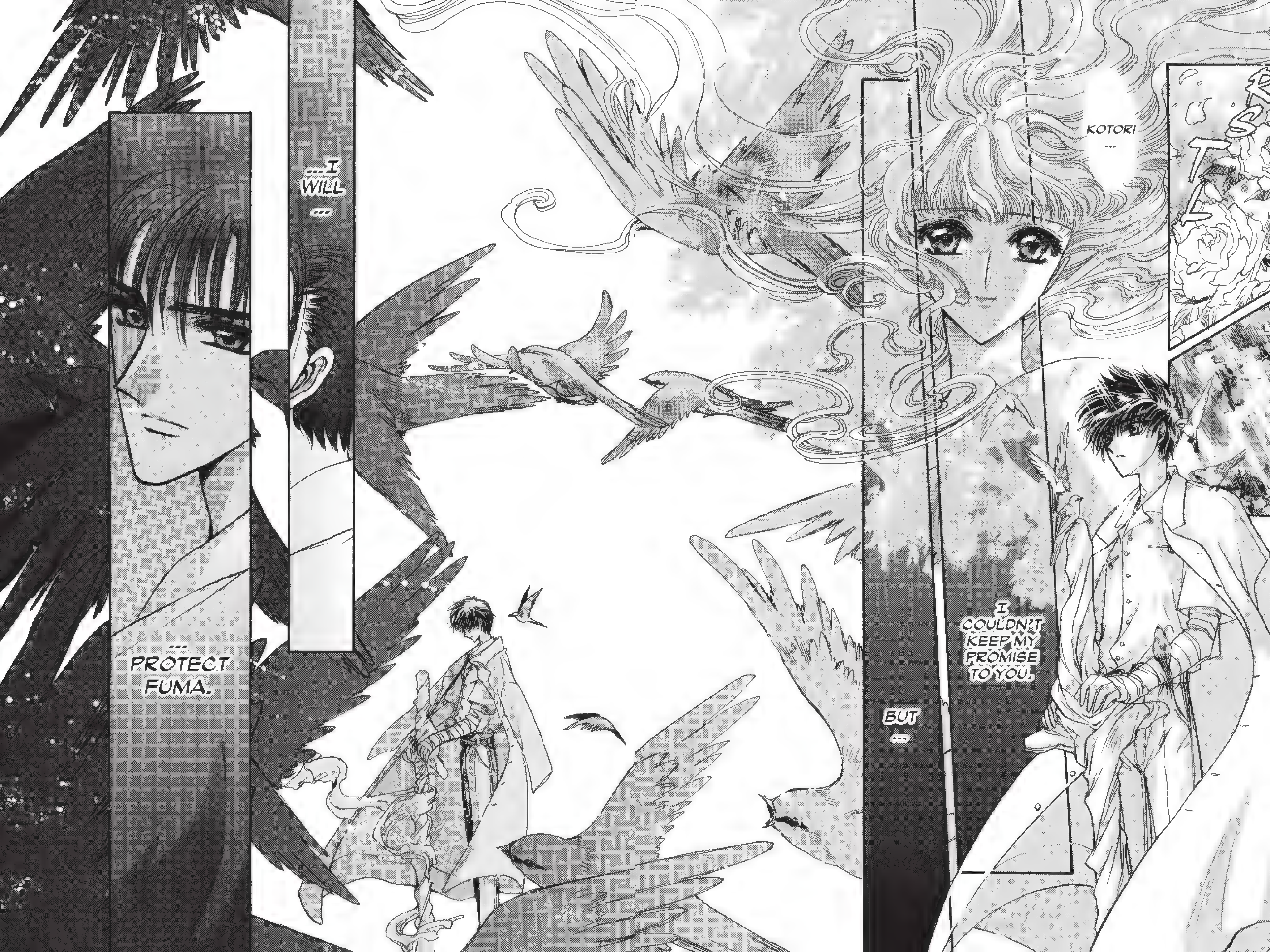

DASH
MISSY!
GET A DOCTOR, NOW!
CLUTCH
THANK ... YOU ...

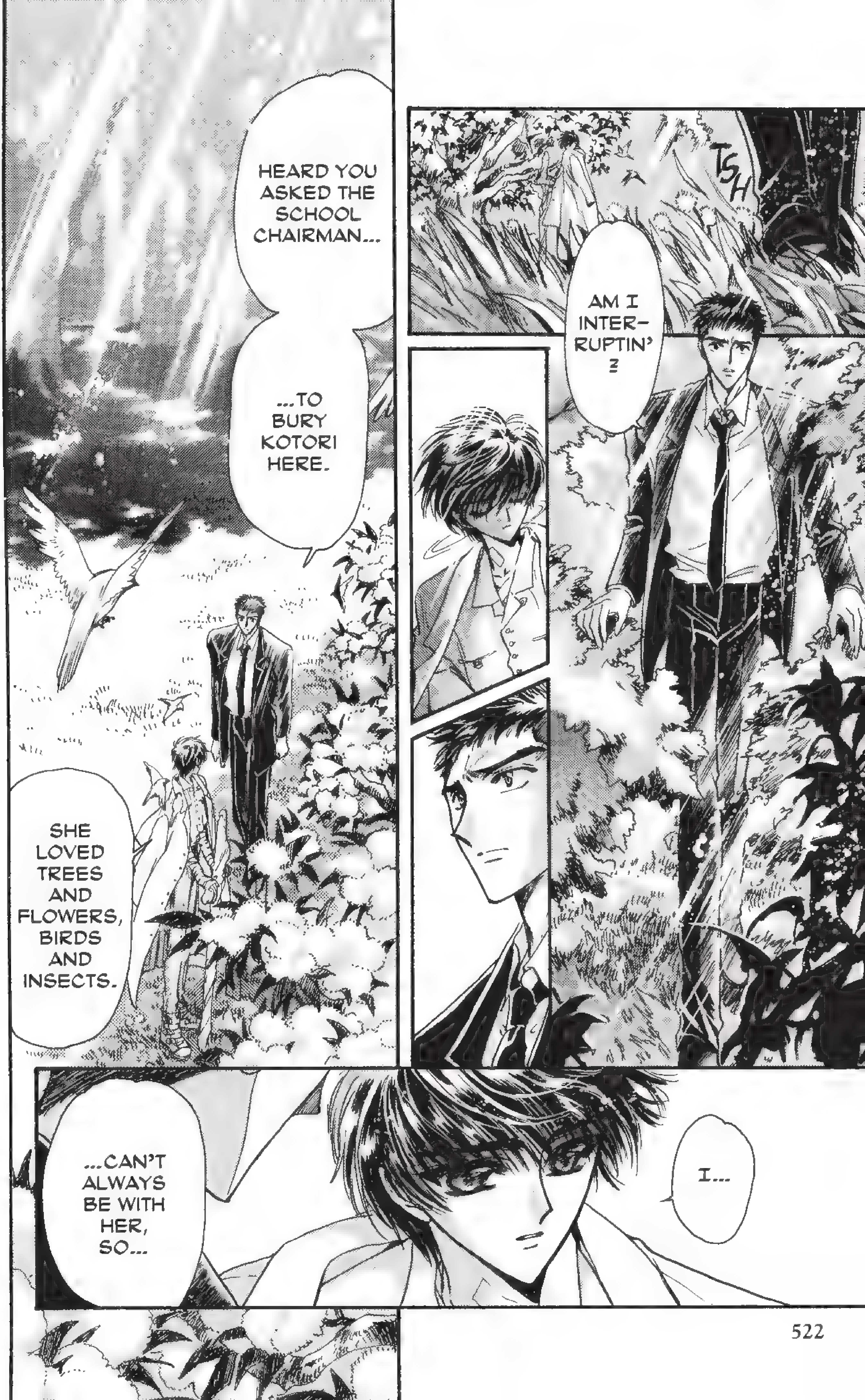

KOTORI
...

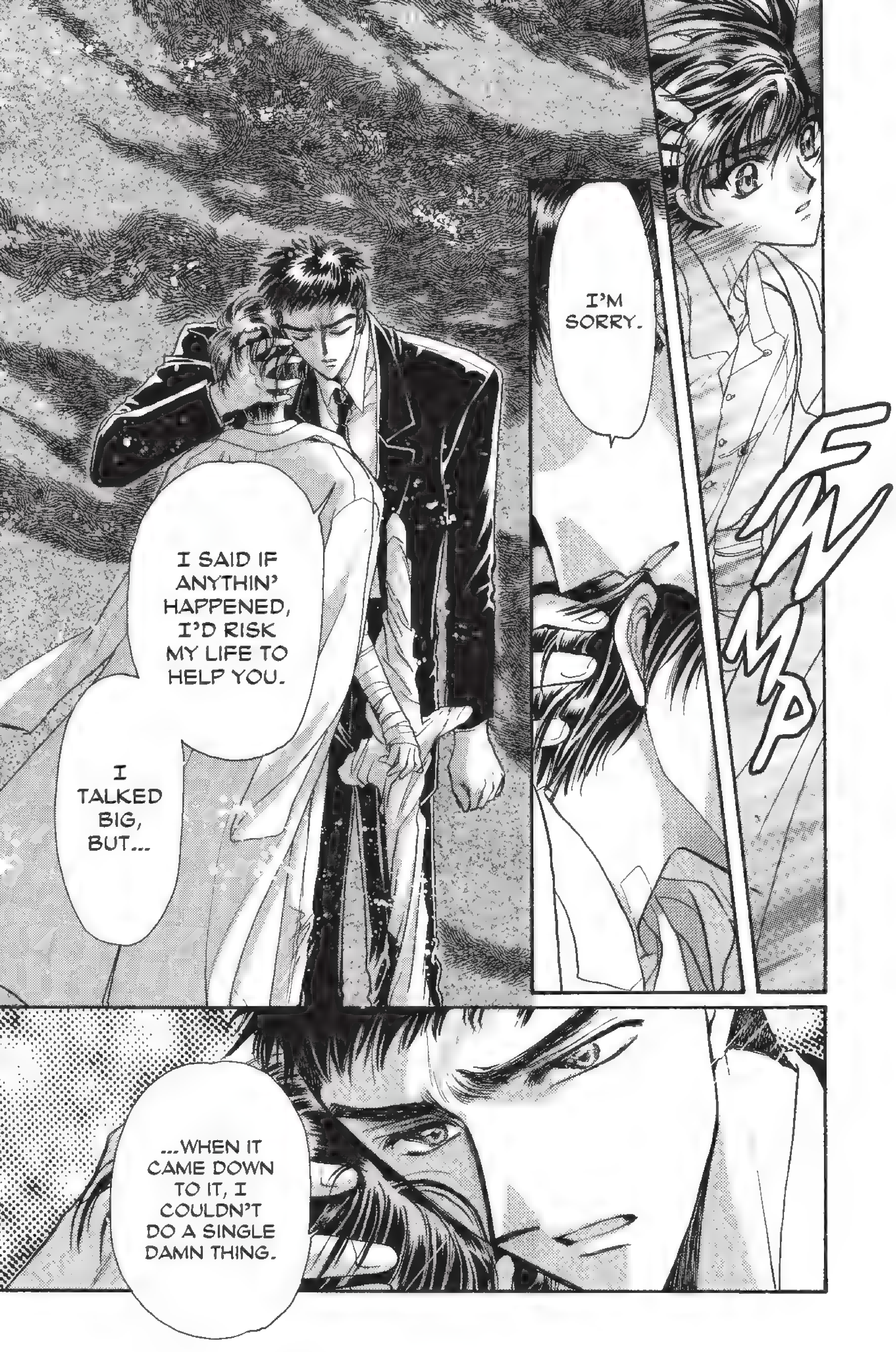

CAN YOU HEAR ME?
KAKYO.
WHERE MUST I GO NOW?

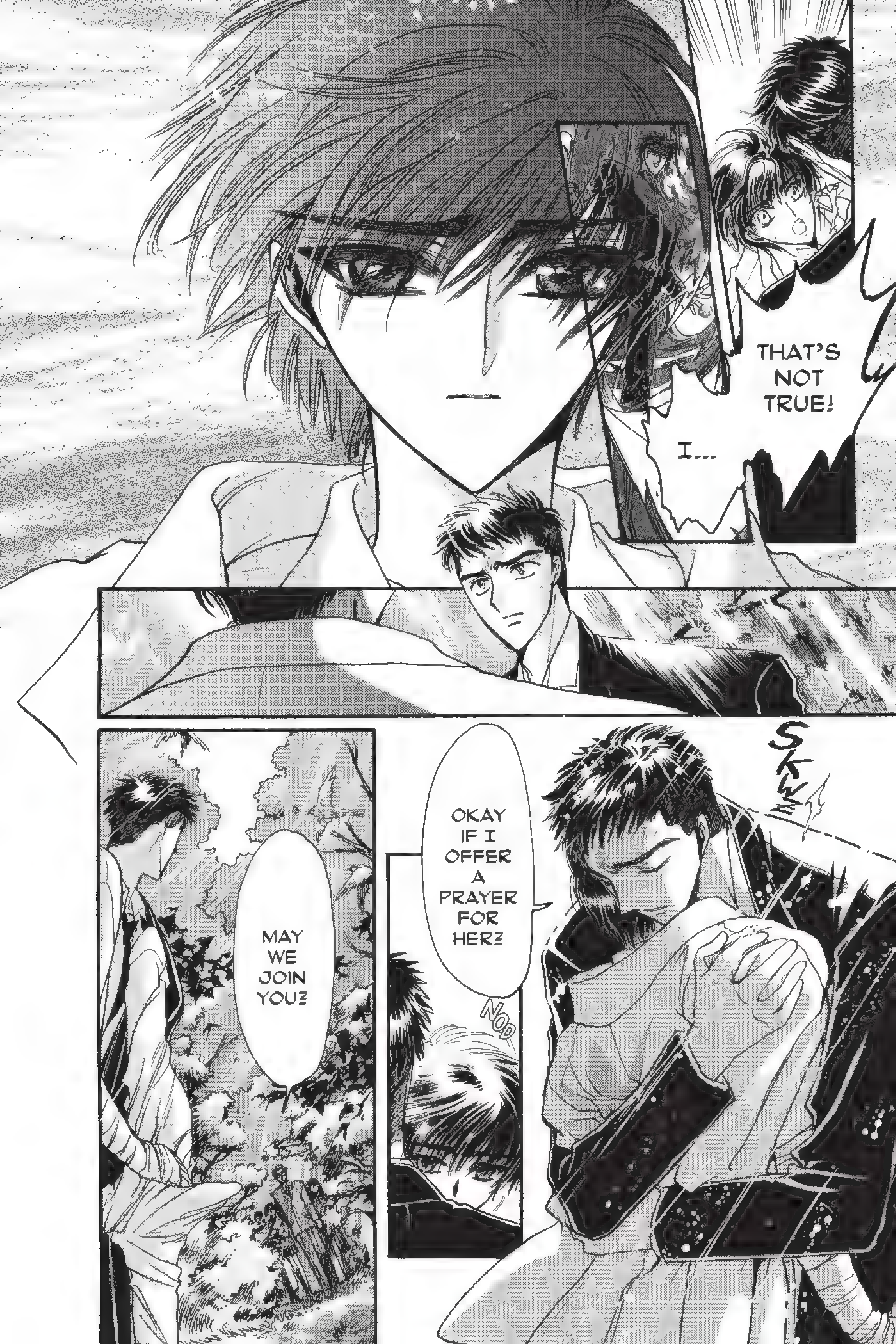


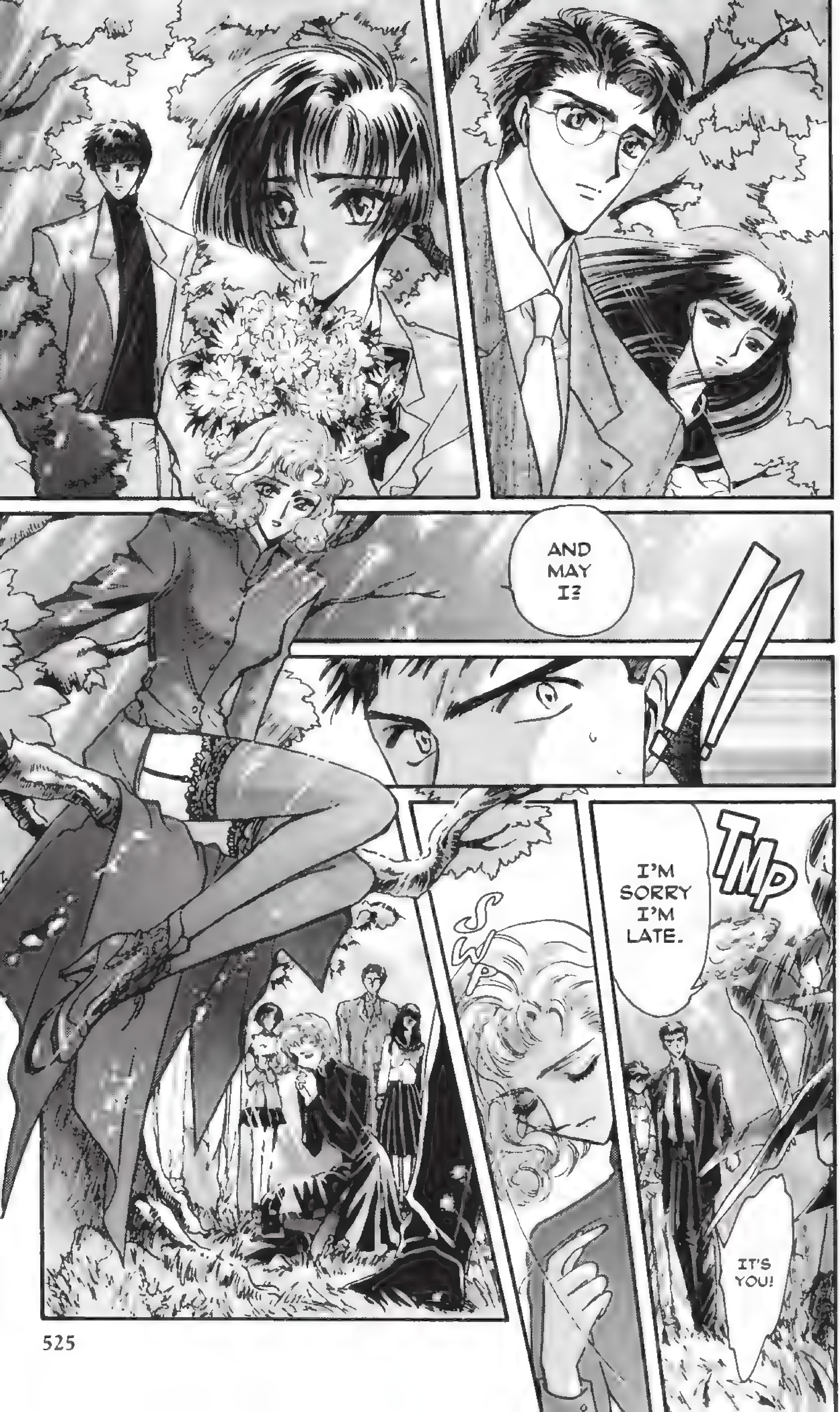
KEEP OUT

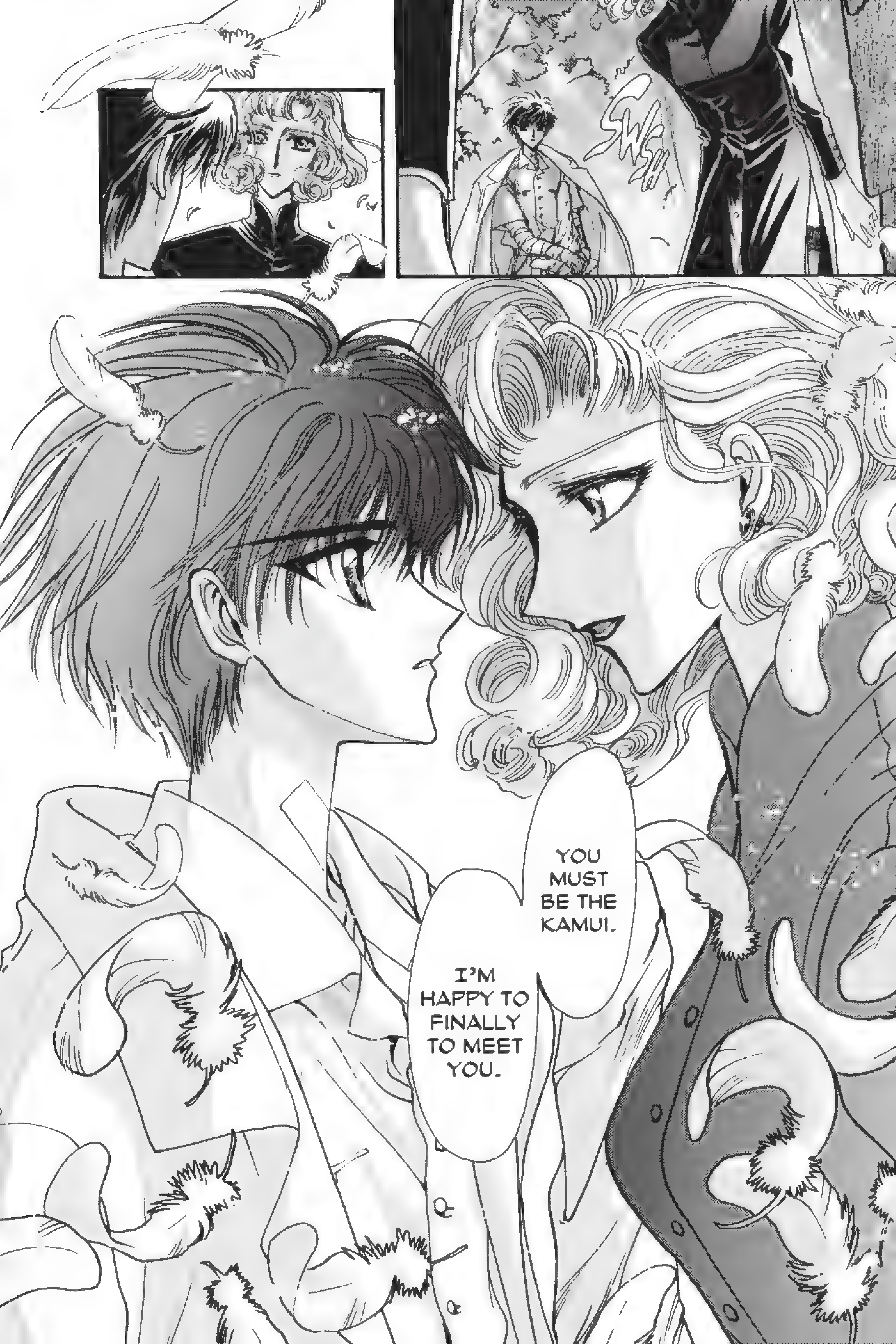

RSTL
KOTORI ...
I COULDN'T KEEP MY PROMISE TO YOU.
BUT ...
... I WILL ...
... PROTECT FUMA.

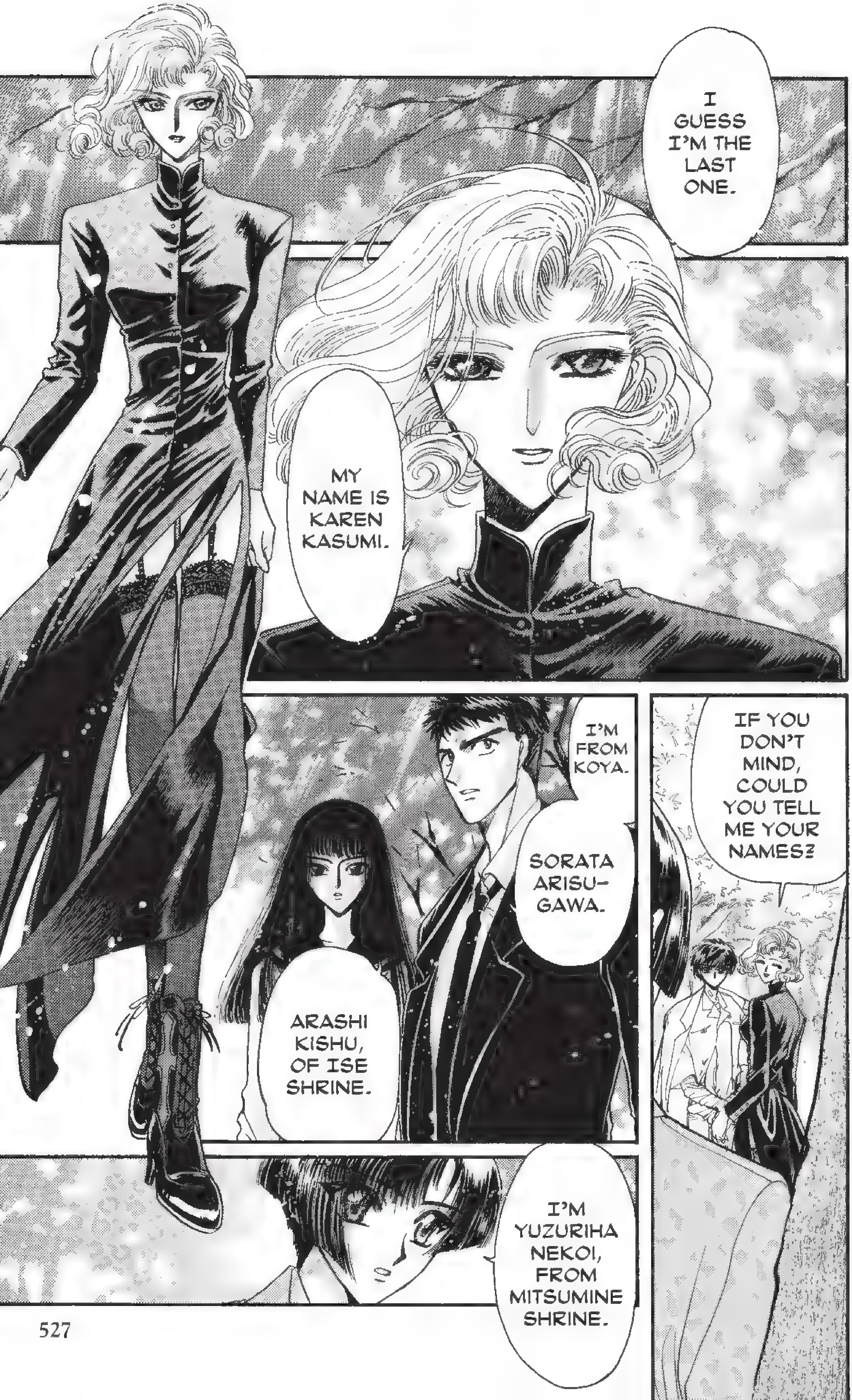

TSH
AM I INTERRUPTIN'?
HEARD YOU ASKED THE SCHOOL CHAIRMAN...
...TO BURY KOTORI HERE.
SHE LOVED TREES AND FLOWERS, BIRDS AND INSECTS.
I...
...CAN'T ALWAYS BE WITH HER, SO...

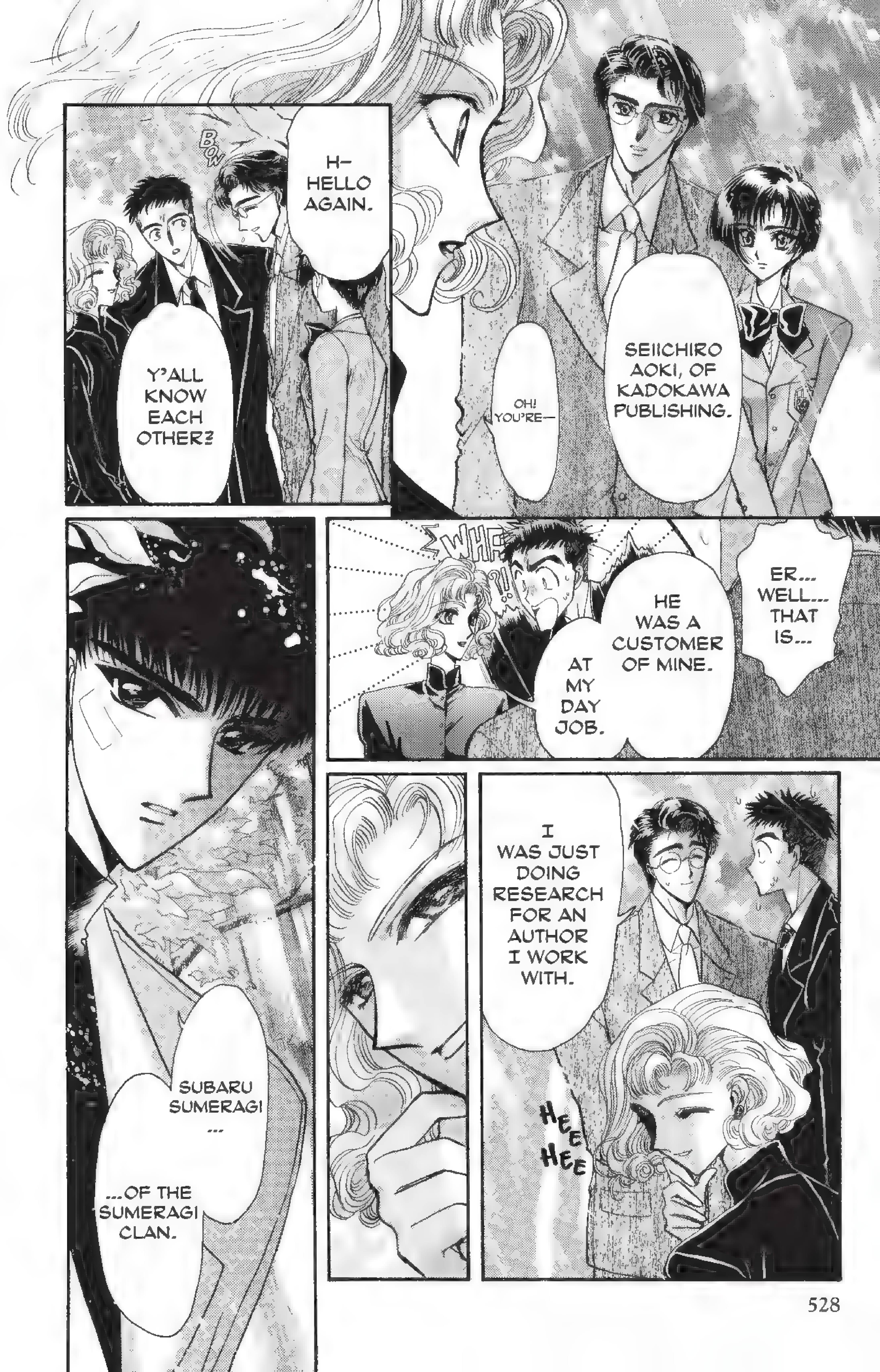

I'M SORRY.
FWMP
I SAID IF ANYTHIN' HAPPENED, I'D RISK MY LIFE TO HELP YOU.
I TALKED BIG, BUT...
...WHEN IT CAME DOWN TO IT, I COULDN'T DO A SINGLE DAMN THING.


THAT'S NOT TRUE!
I...
SKWZ
OKAY IF I OFFER A PRAYER FOR HER?
NOD
MAY WE JOIN YOU?

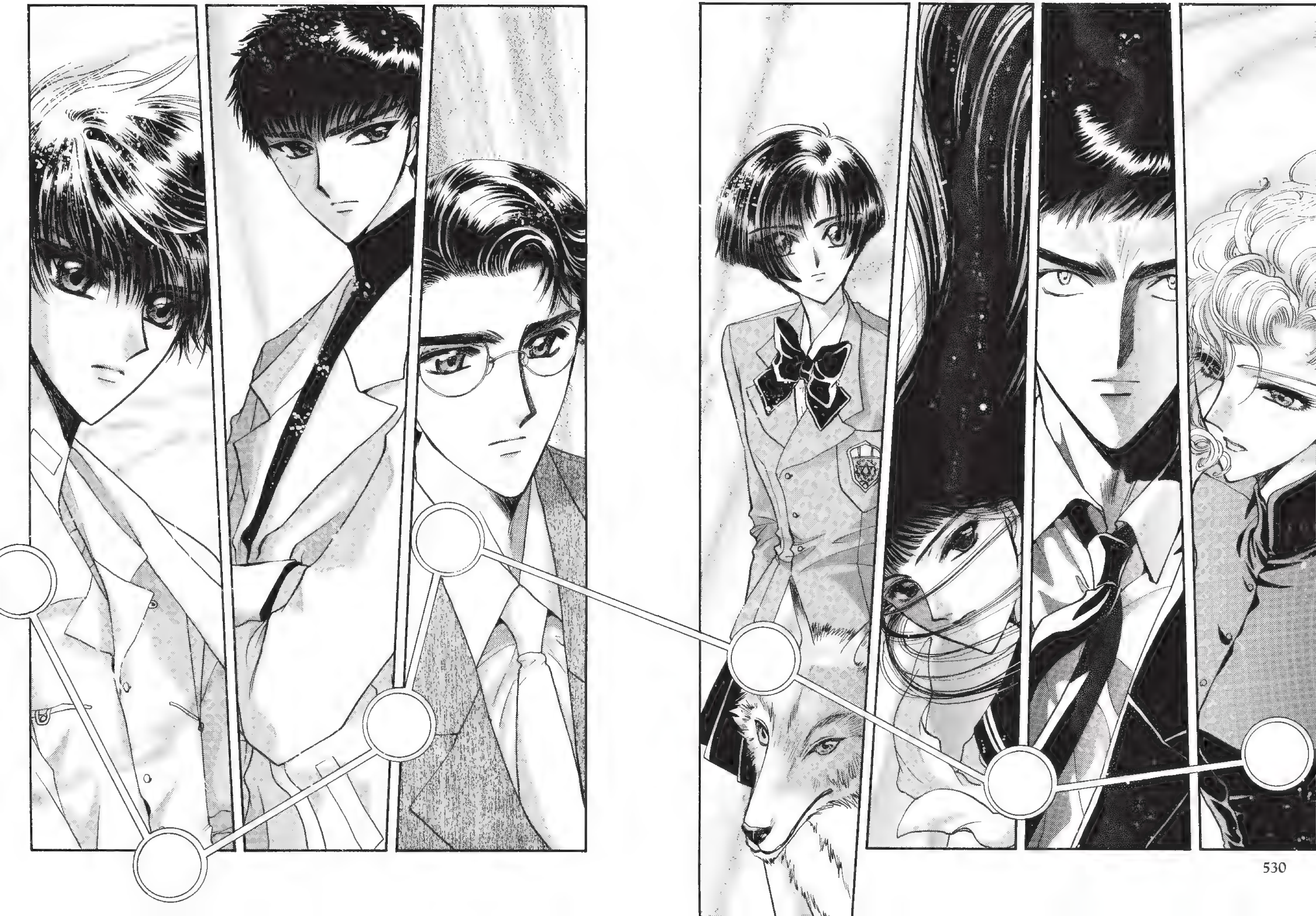

AND MAY I?
TMP
I'M SORRY I'M LATE.
IT'S YOU!
SWP

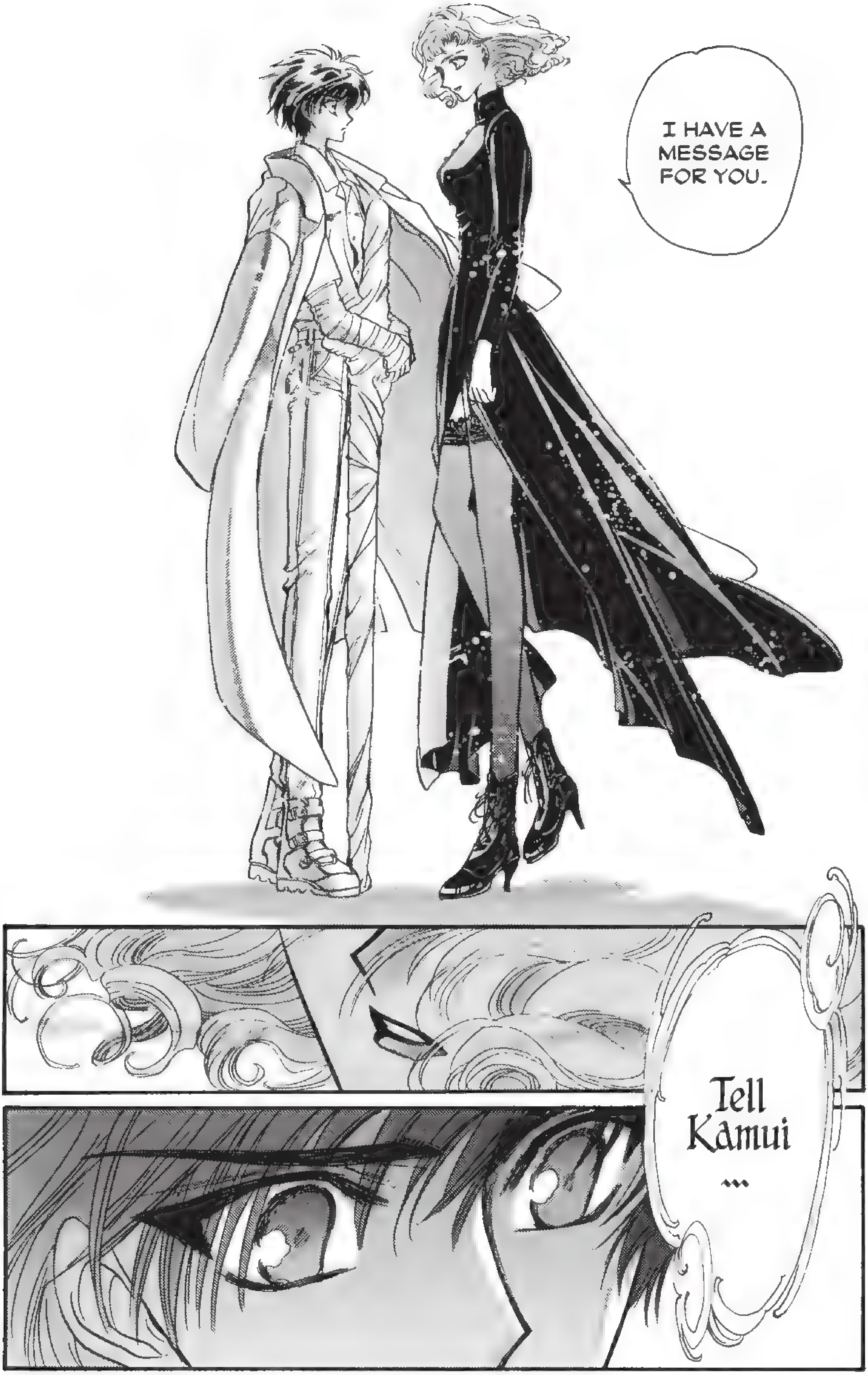

SWISH
YOU MUST BE THE KAMUI.
I'M HAPPY TO FINALLY TO MEET YOU.

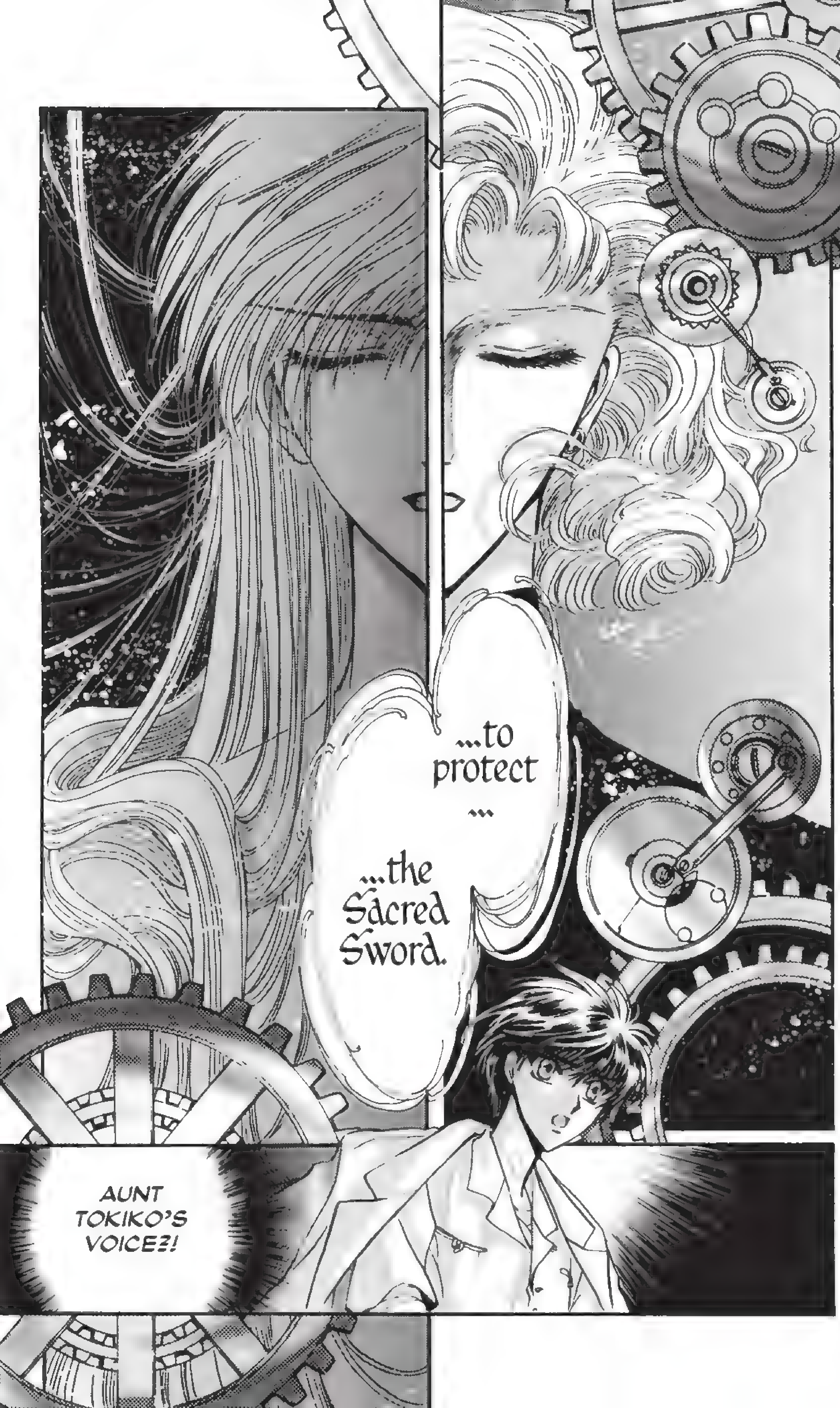

I GUESS I'M THE LAST ONE.
MY NAME IS KAREN KASUMI.
IF YOU DON'T MIND, COULD YOU TELL ME YOUR NAMES?
I'M FROM KOYA.
SORATA ARISUGAWA.
ARASHI KISHU, OF ISE SHRINE.
I'M YUZURIHA NEKOI, FROM MITSUMINE SHRINE.

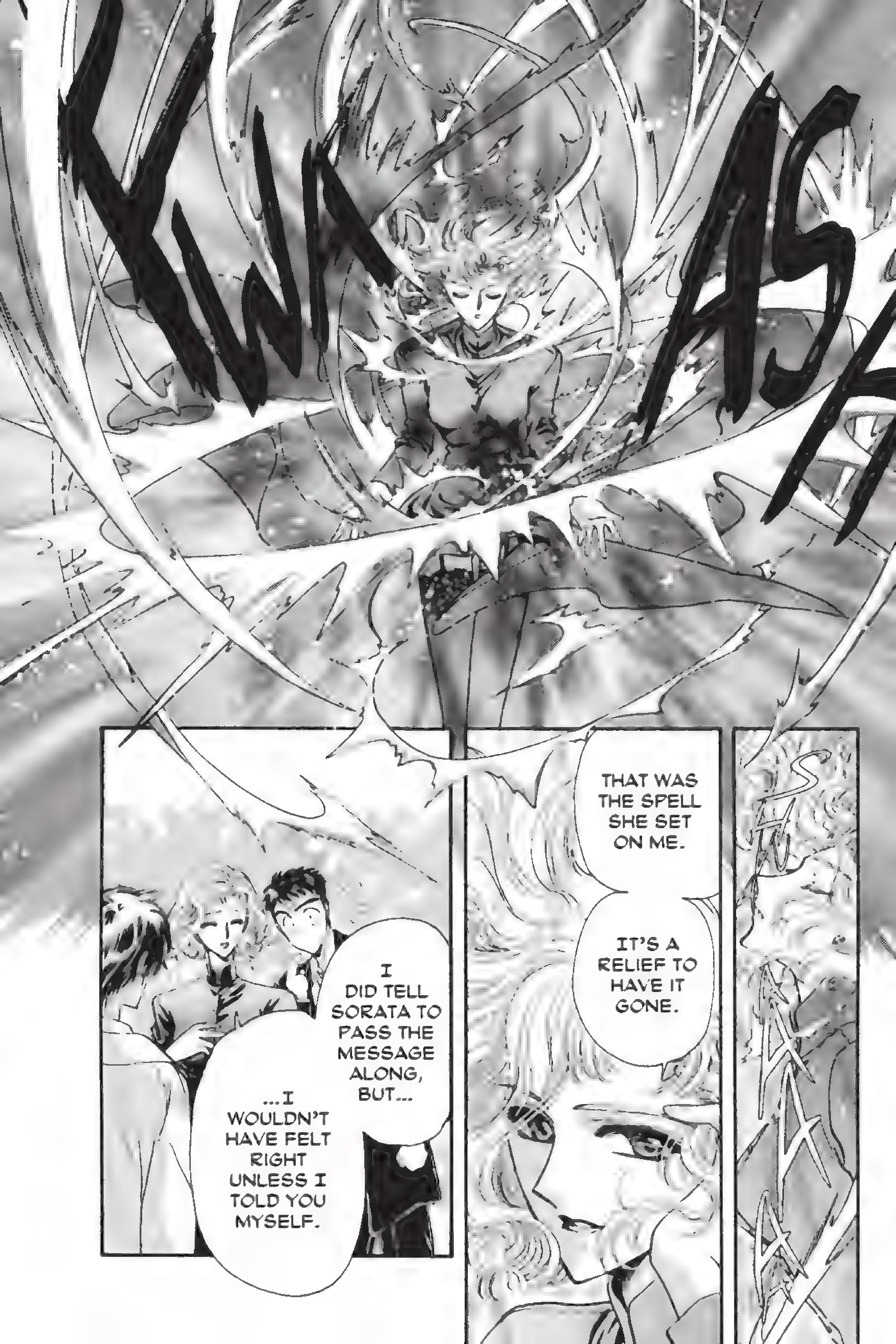

SEIICHIRO AOKI, OF KADOKAWA PUBLISHING.
OH! YOU'RE—
H- HELLO AGAIN.
BON
Y'ALL KNOW EACH OTHER?
ER... WELL... THAT IS...
HE WAS A CUSTOMER OF MINE.
AT MY DAY JOB.
WHF
?!
I WAS JUST DOING RESEARCH FOR AN AUTHOR I WORK WITH.
HEE HEE
SUBARU SUMERAGI ...
...OF THE SUMERAGI CLAN.

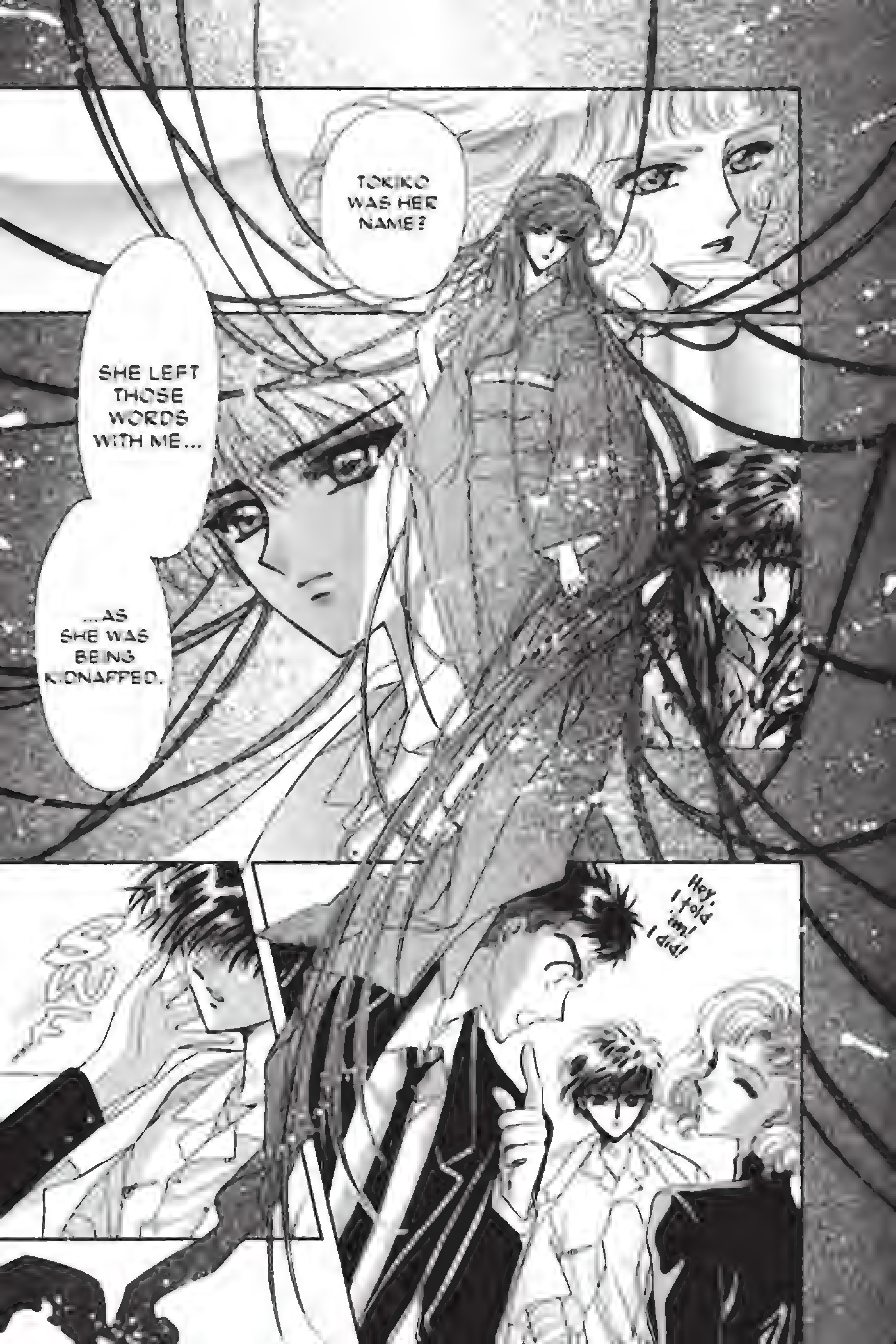
KAMUI SHIRO.

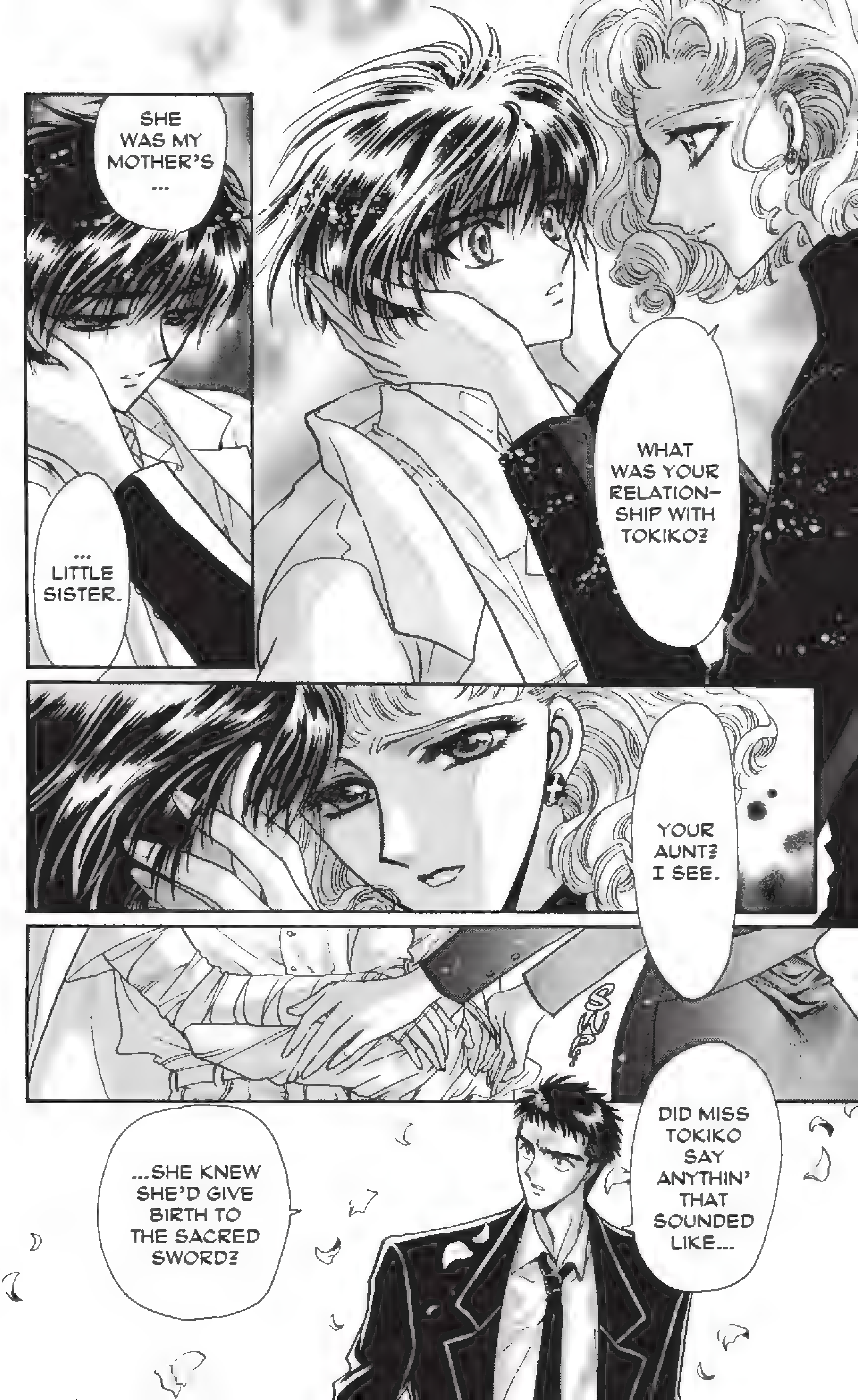


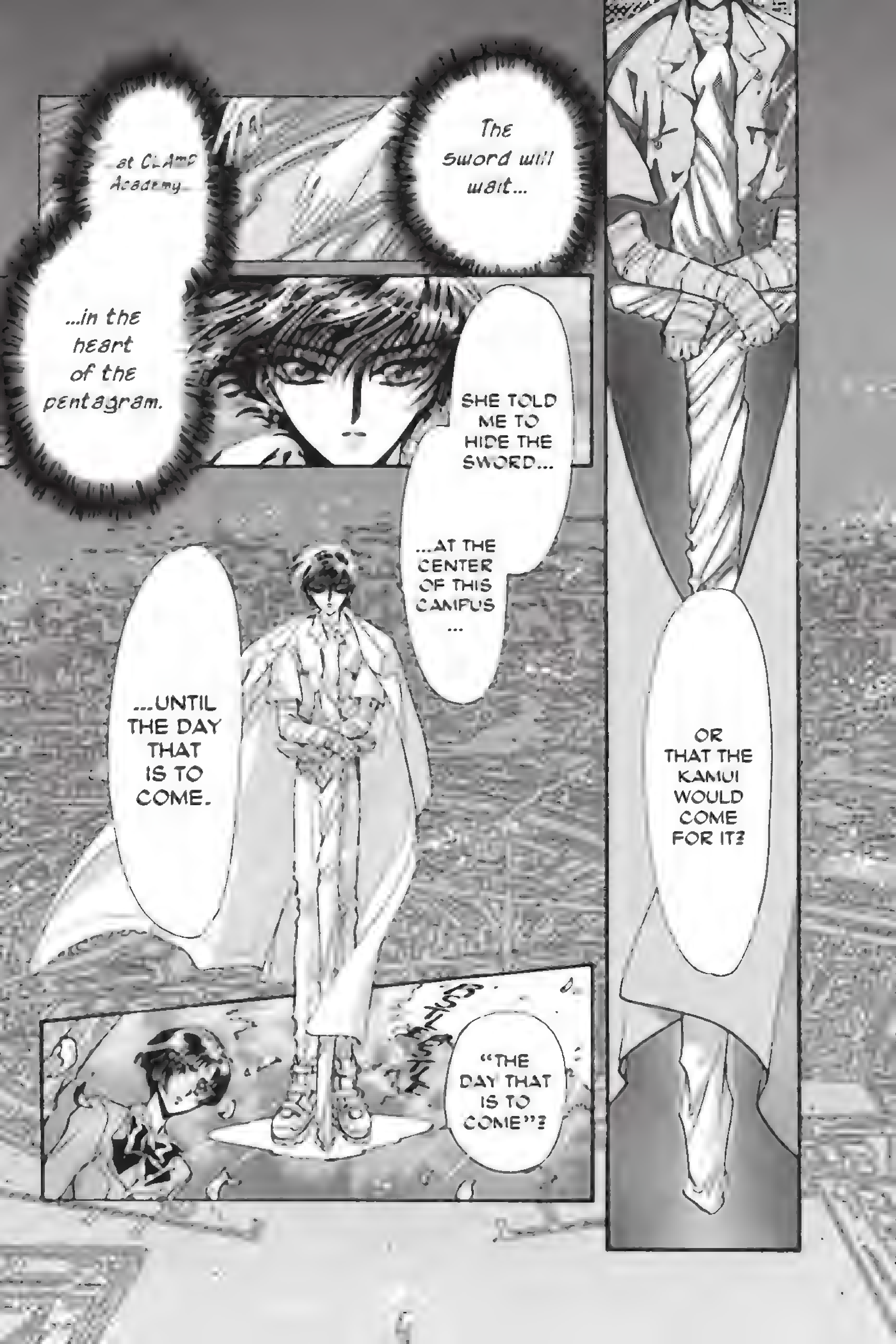

I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU.
Tell Kamui ...

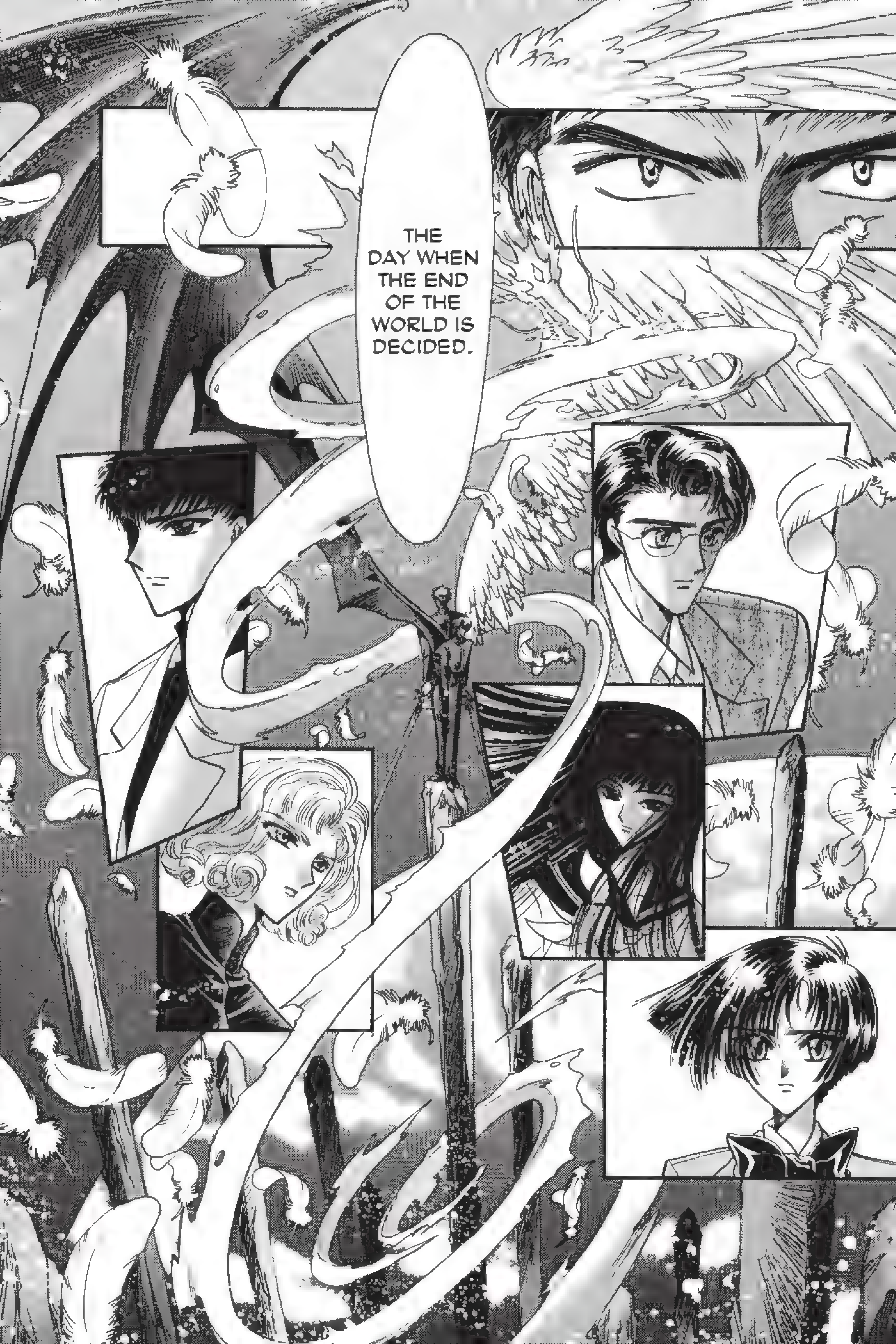

...to protect ...
...the Sacred Sword.
AUNT TOKIKO'S VOICE?!

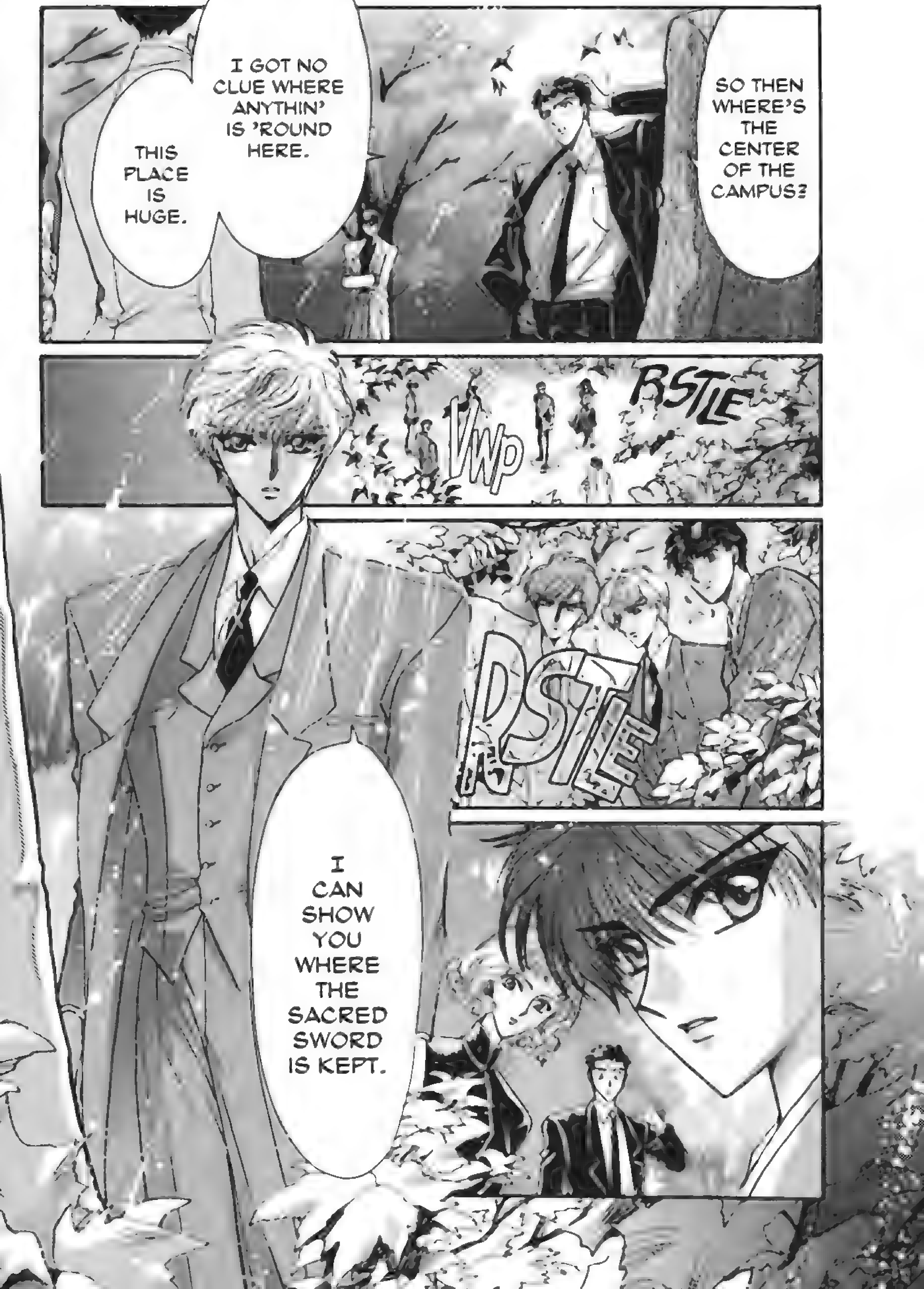

KWAAS
SHAAA
THAT WAS THE SPELL SHE SET ON ME.
IT'S A RELIEF TO HAVE IT GONE.
I DID TELL SORATA TO PASS THE MESSAGE ALONG, BUT...
...I WOULDN'T HAVE FELT RIGHT UNLESS I TOLD YOU MYSELF.

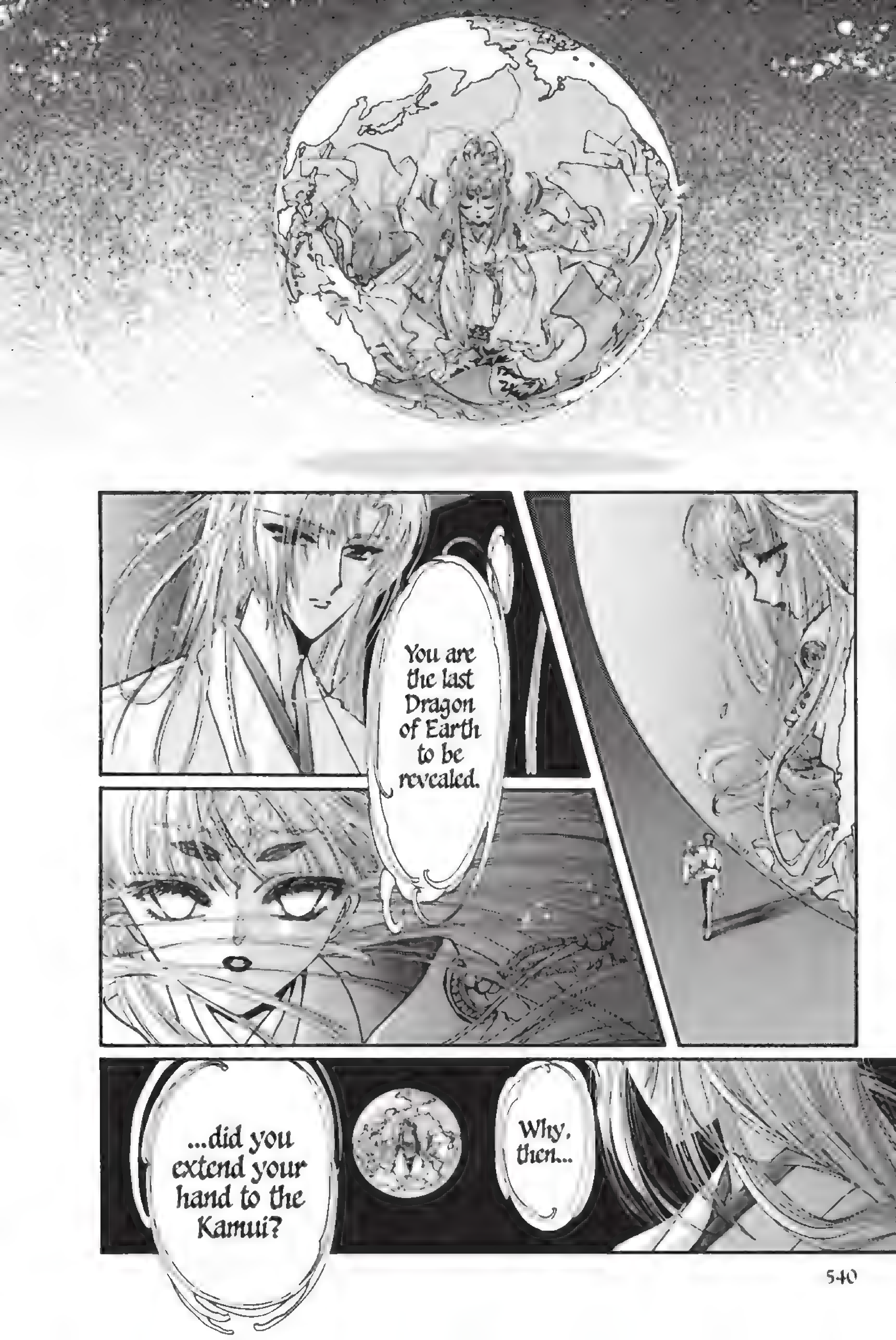

TOKIKO WAS HER NAME?
SHE LEFT THOSE WORDS WITH ME...
...AS SHE WAS BEING KIDNAPPED.
Hey, I told 'im! I did!

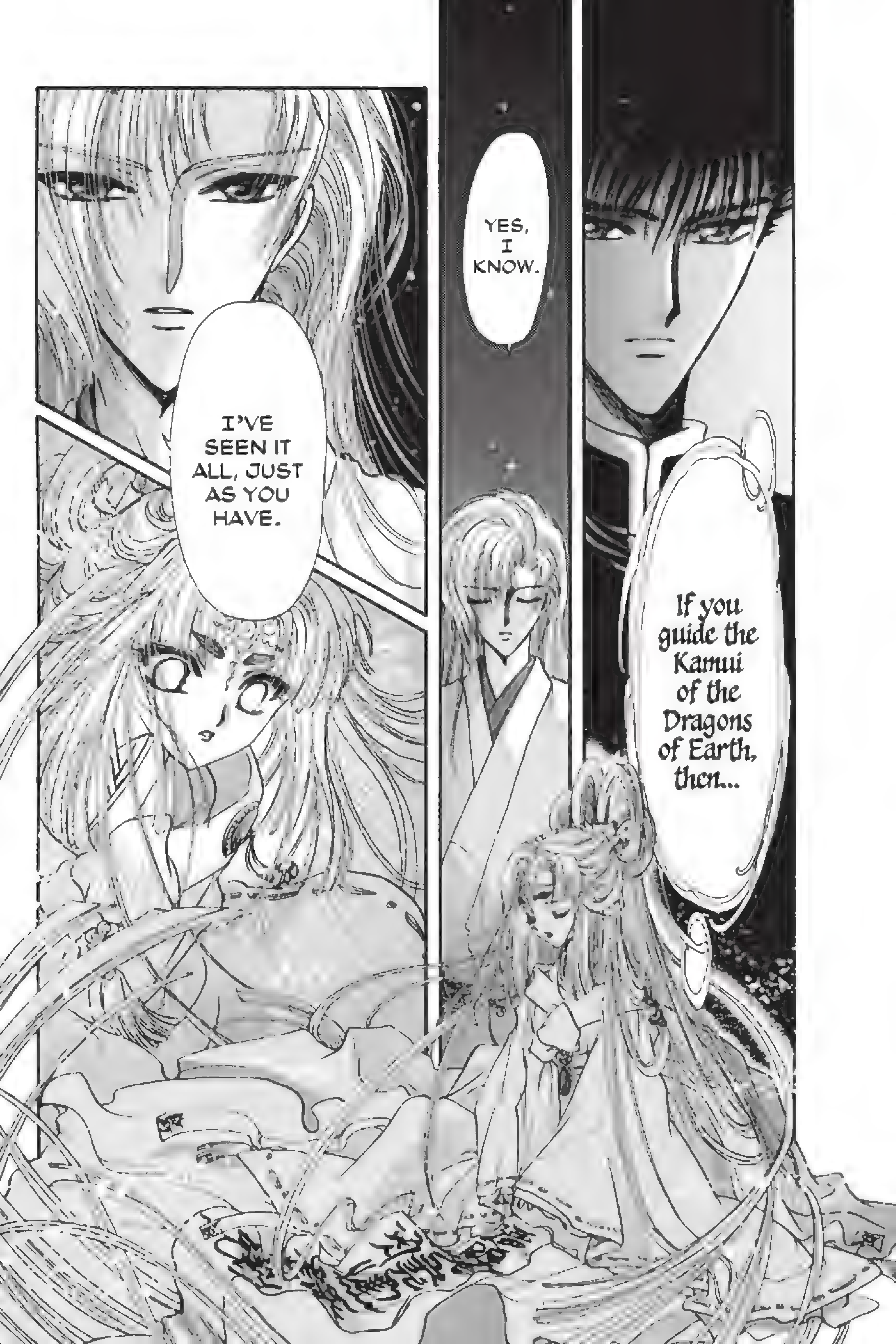

WHAT WAS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH TOKIKO?
SHE WAS MY MOTHER'S ...
... LITTLE SISTER.
YOUR AUNT? I SEE.
SWP...
DID MISS TOKIKO SAY ANYTHIN' THAT SOUNDED LIKE...
...SHE KNEW SHE'D GIVE BIRTH TO THE SACRED SWORD?

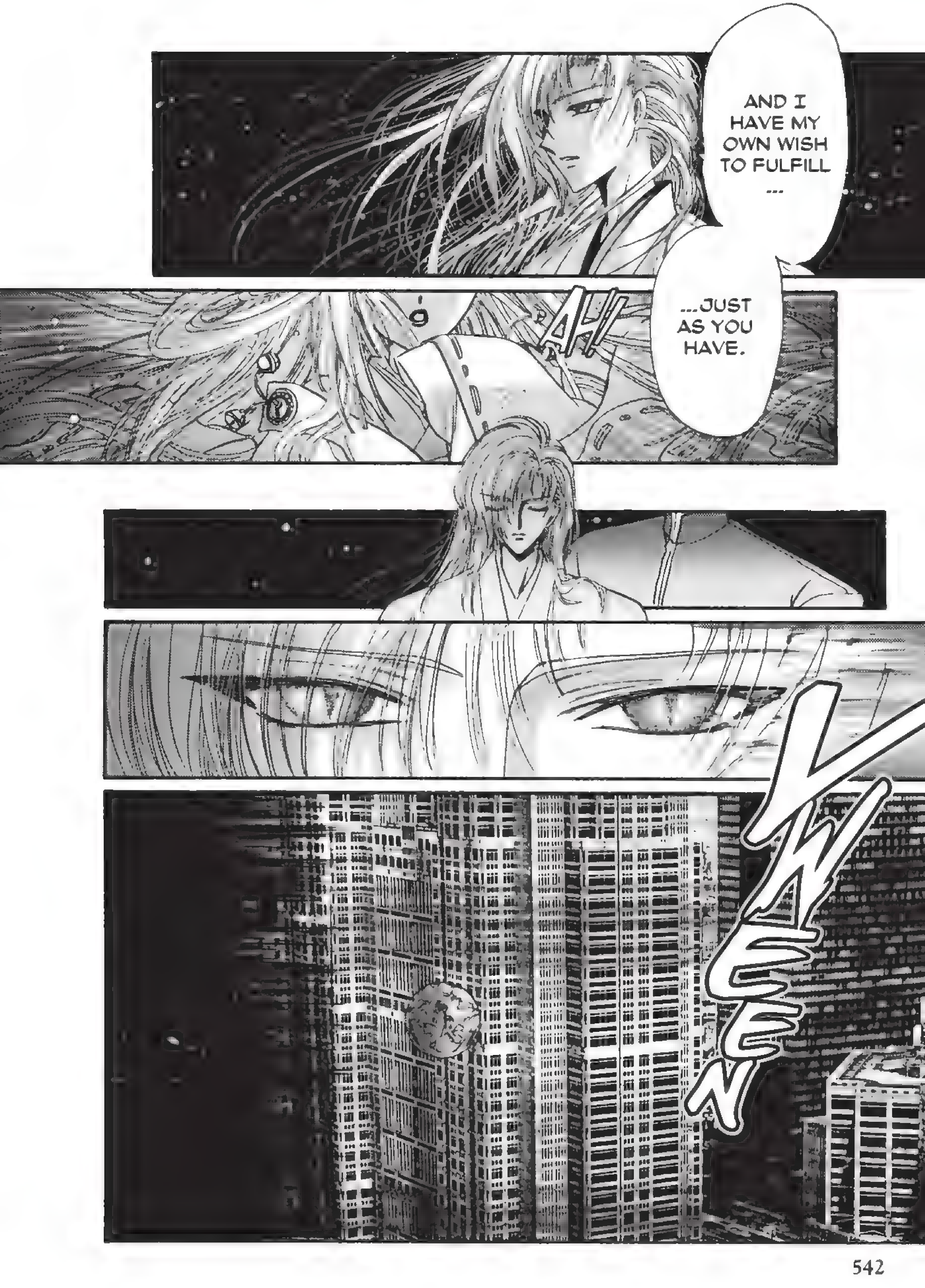

The sword will wait...
...at CLAMP Academy...
...in the heart of the pentagram.
SHE TOLD ME TO HIDE THE SWORD...
...AT THE CENTER OF THIS CAMPUS...
...UNTIL THE DAY THAT IS TO COME.
OR THAT THE KAMUI WOULD COME FOR IT?
"THE DAY THAT IS TO COME"?

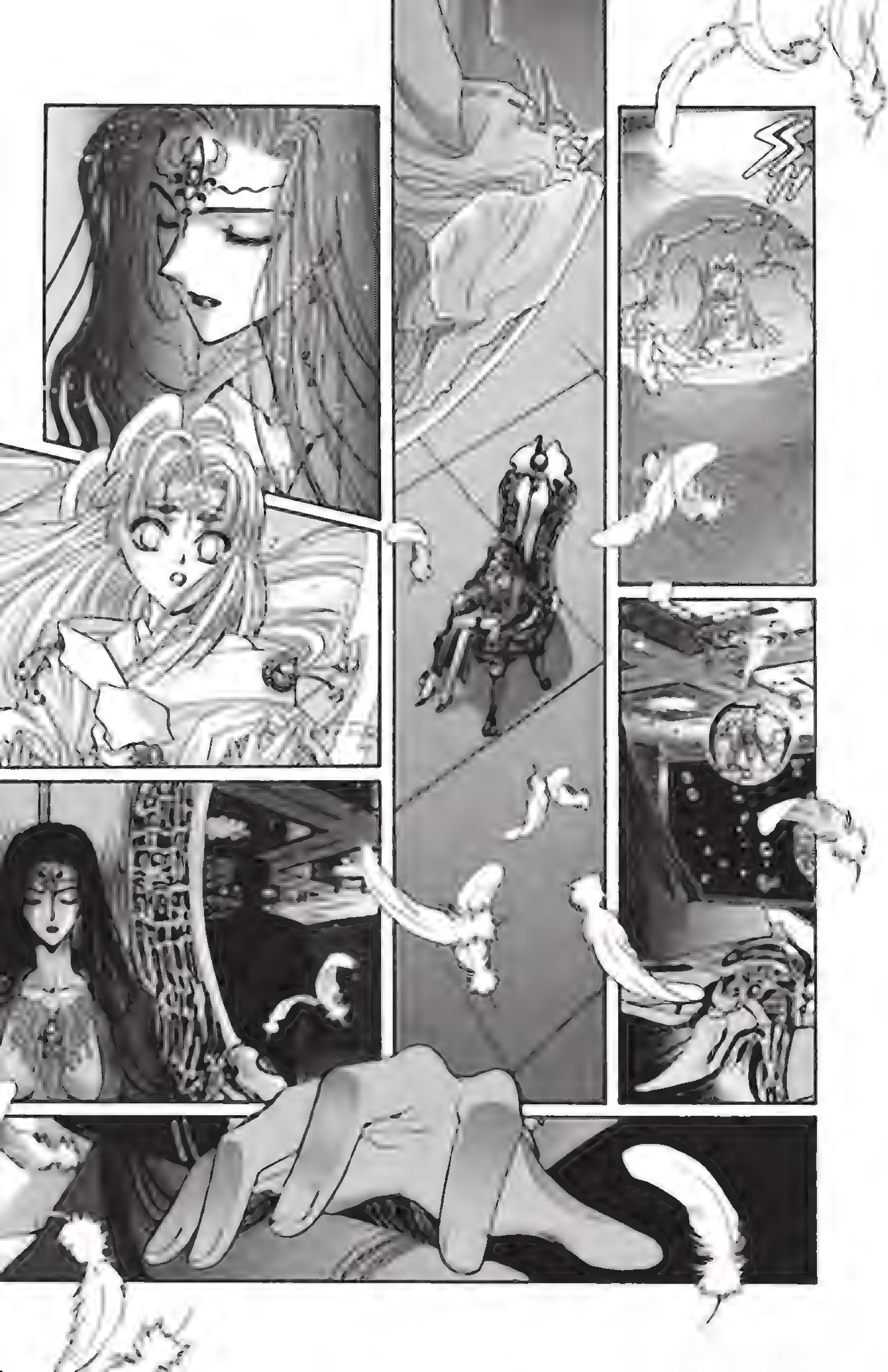

THE DAY WHEN THE END OF THE WORLD IS DECIDED.

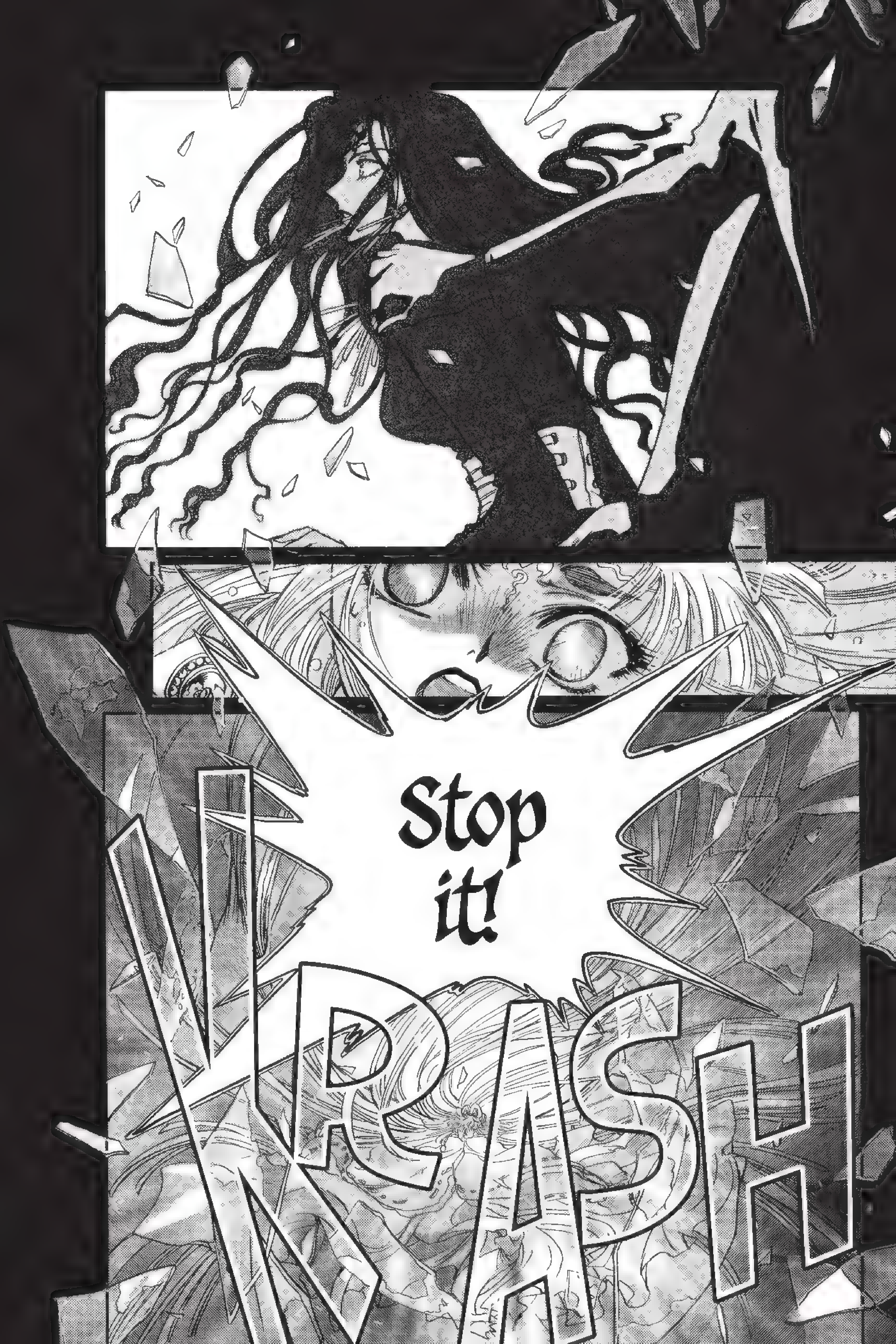

SO THEN WHERE'S THE CENTER OF THE CAMPUS?
I GOT NO CLUE WHERE ANYTHIN' IS 'ROUND HERE.
THIS PLACE IS HUGE.
RSTLE
VWP
RSTLE
I CAN SHOW YOU WHERE THE SACRED SWORD IS KEPT.

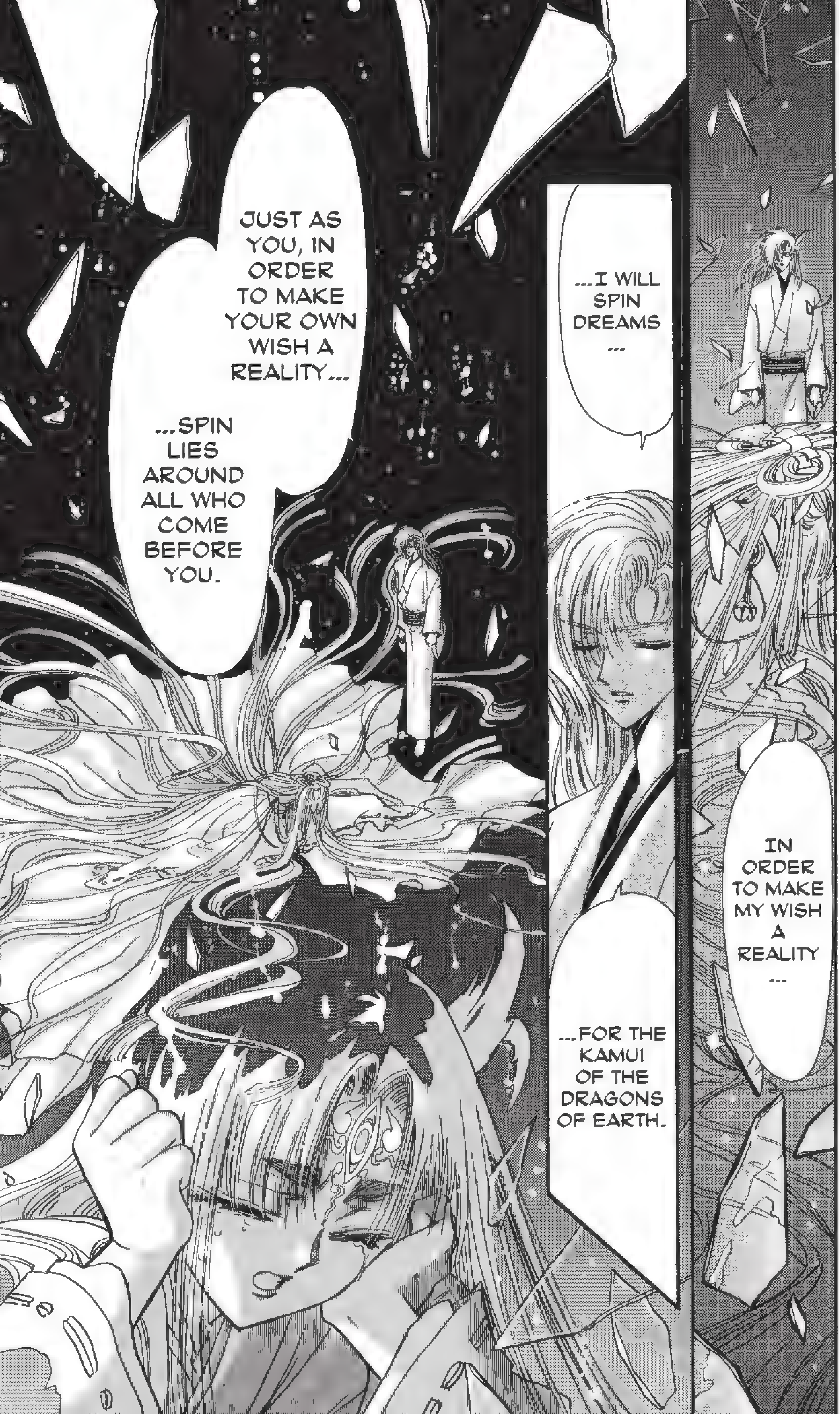

You are the last Dragon of Earth to be revealed.
Why, then...
...did you extend your hand to the Kamui?

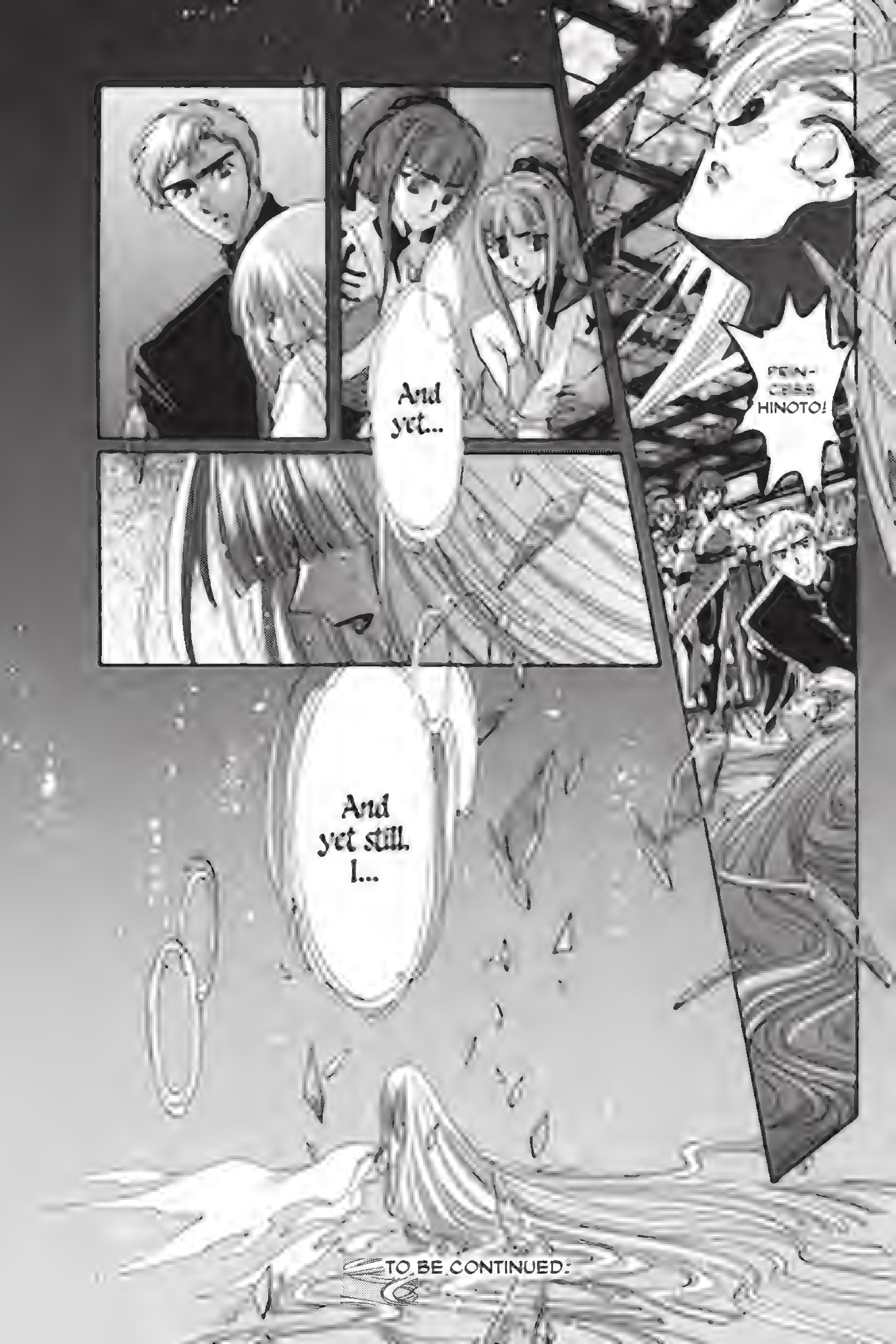

If you guide the Kamui of the Dragons of Earth, then...
YES, I KNOW.
I'VE SEEN IT ALL, JUST AS YOU HAVE.


AND I HAVE MY OWN WISH TO FULFILL ...
...JUST AS YOU HAVE.
AH!
VWAEEEN



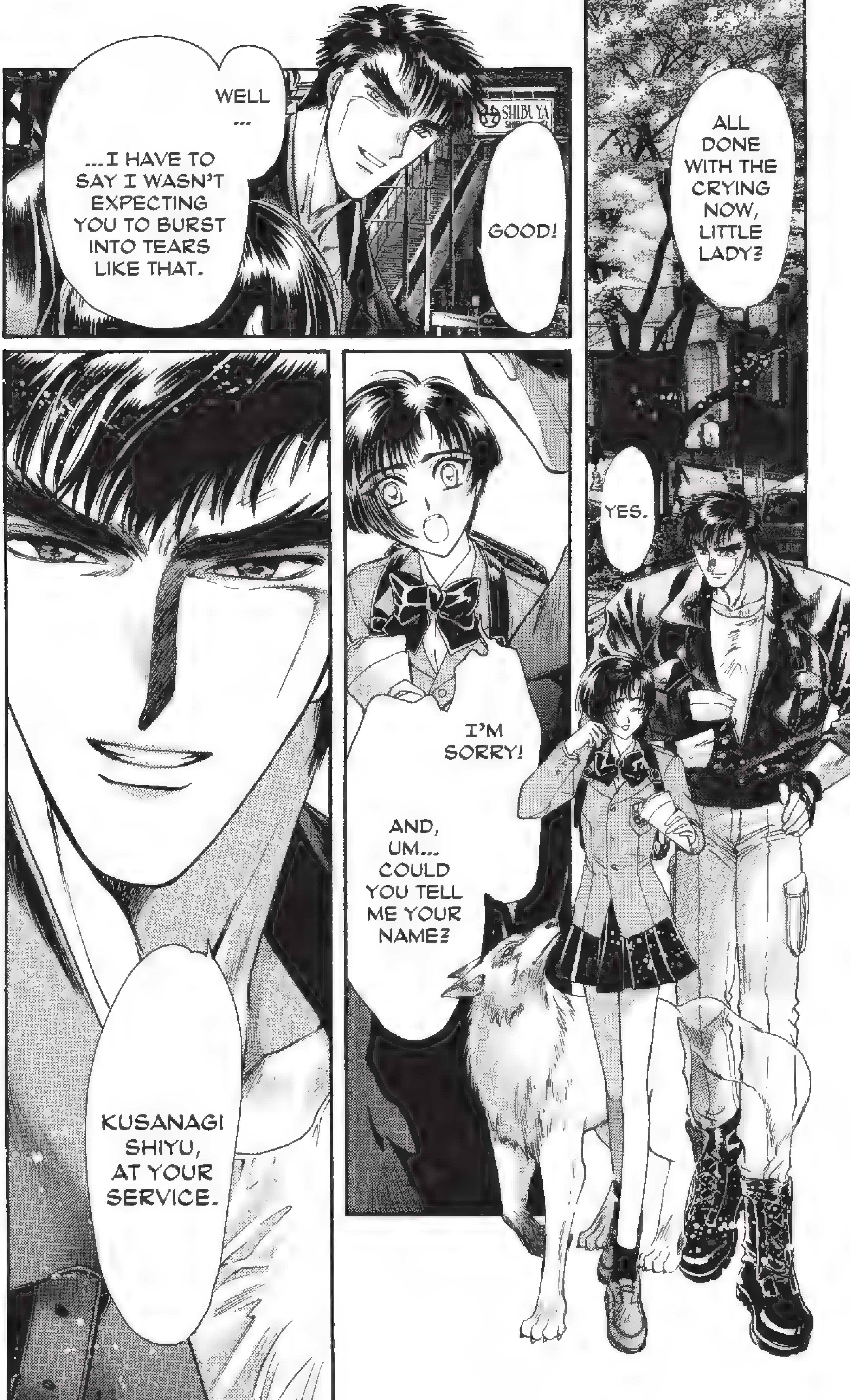

Stop it!
KRASH

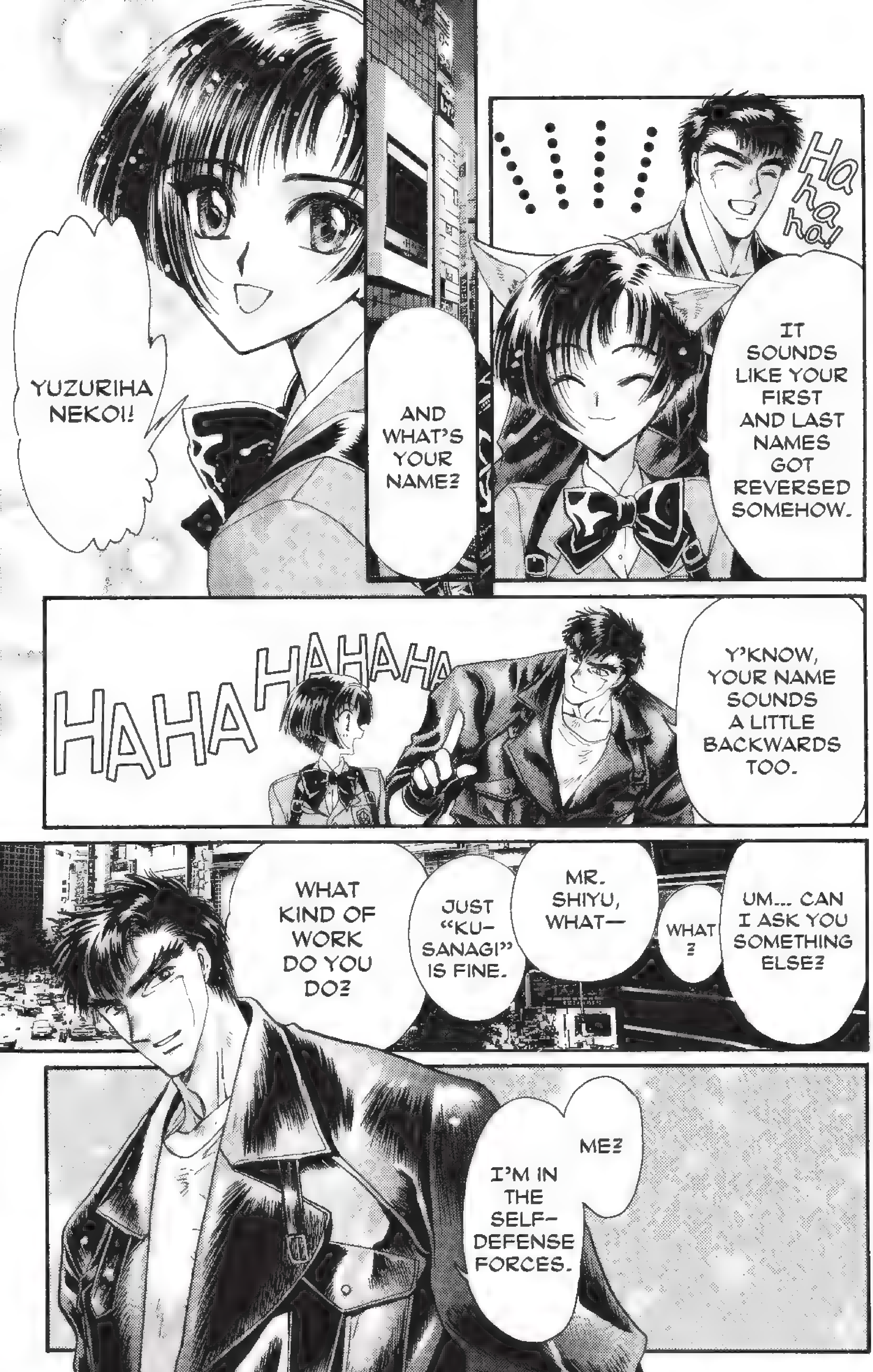

...I WILL SPIN DREAMS ...
IN ORDER TO MAKE MY WISH A REALITY ...
...FOR THE KAMUI OF THE DRAGONS OF EARTH.
JUST AS YOU, IN ORDER TO MAKE YOUR OWN WISH A REALITY...
...SPIN LIES AROUND ALL WHO COME BEFORE YOU.

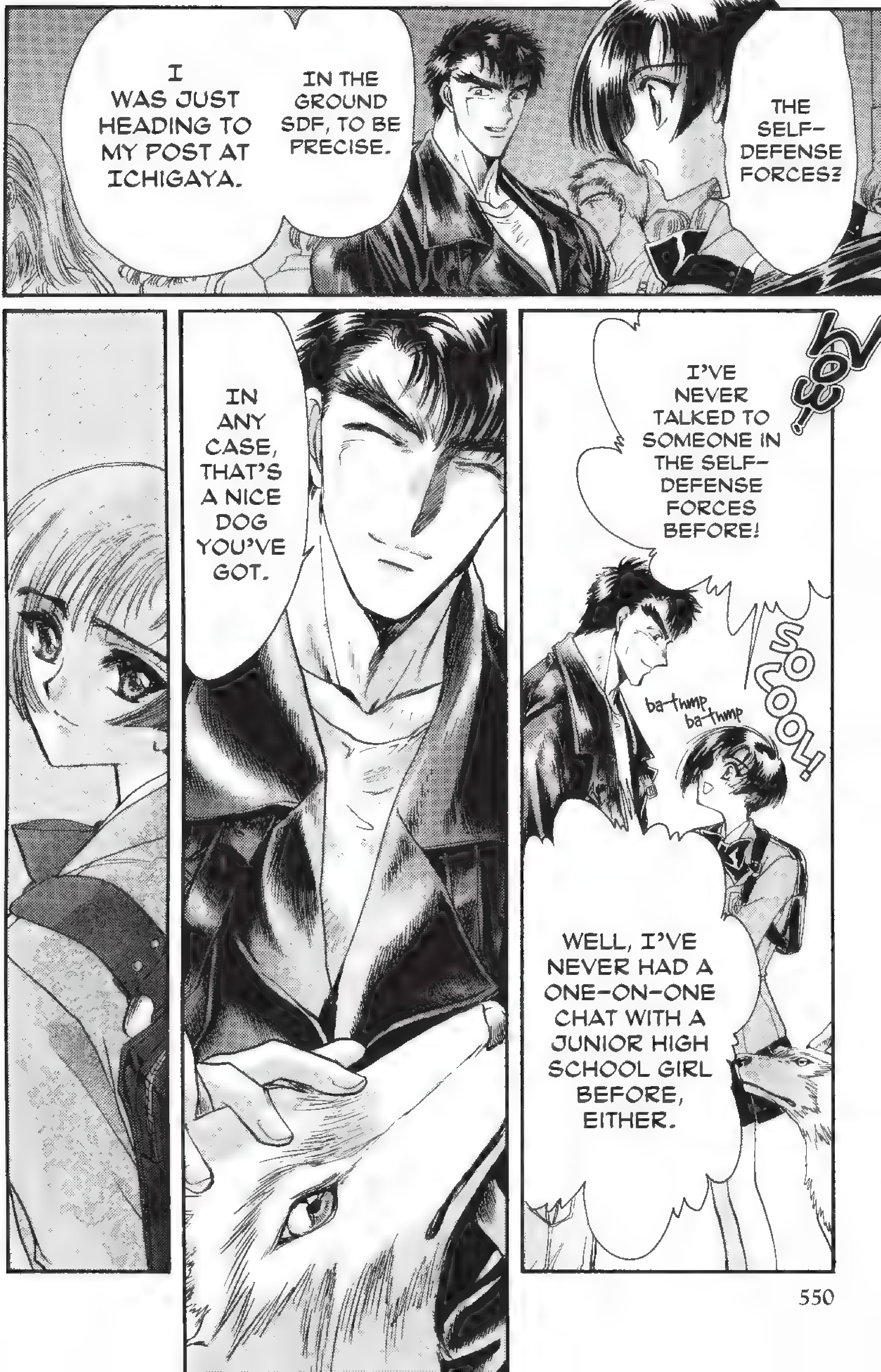

PRINCESS HINOTO!
And yet...
And yet still, I...
TO BE CONTINUED.

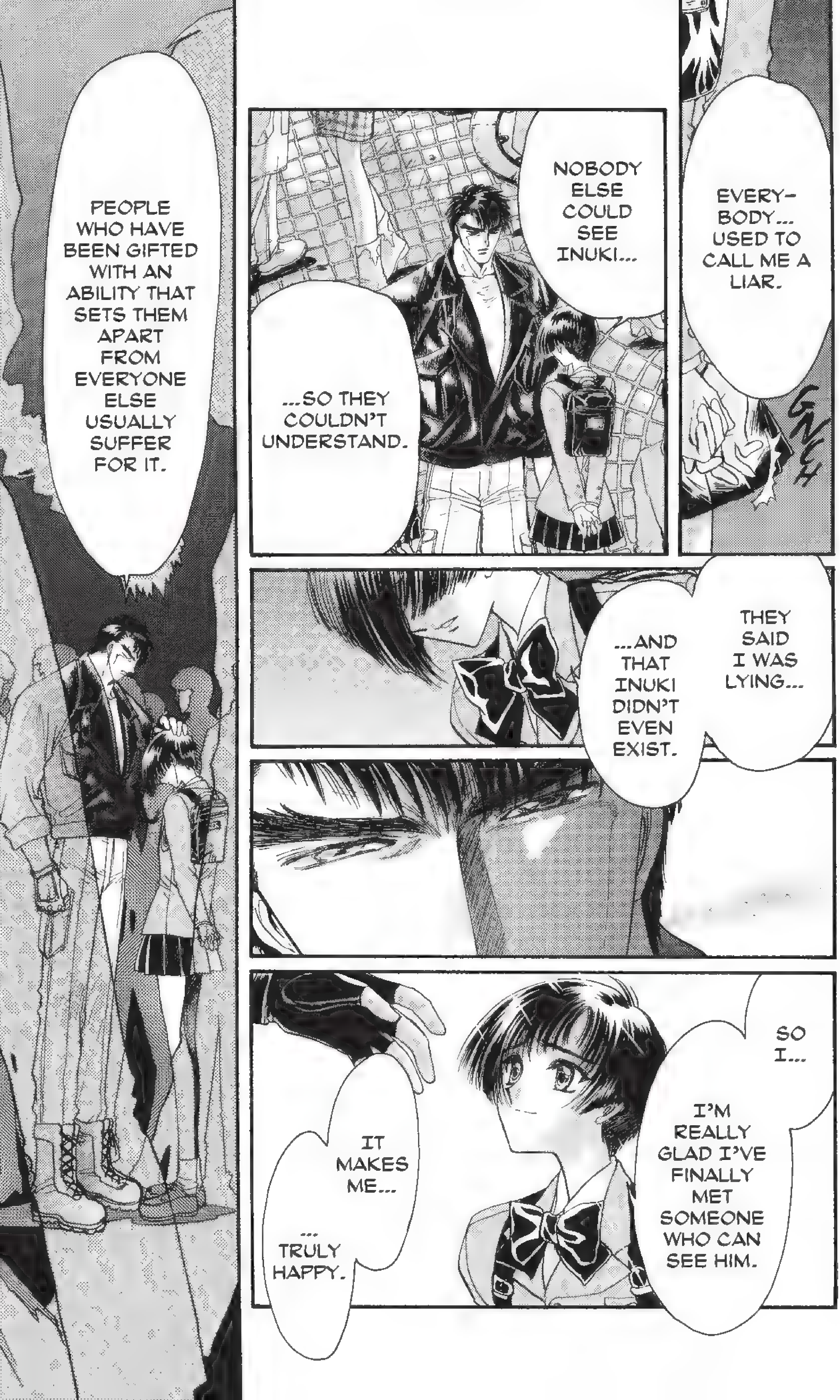
X

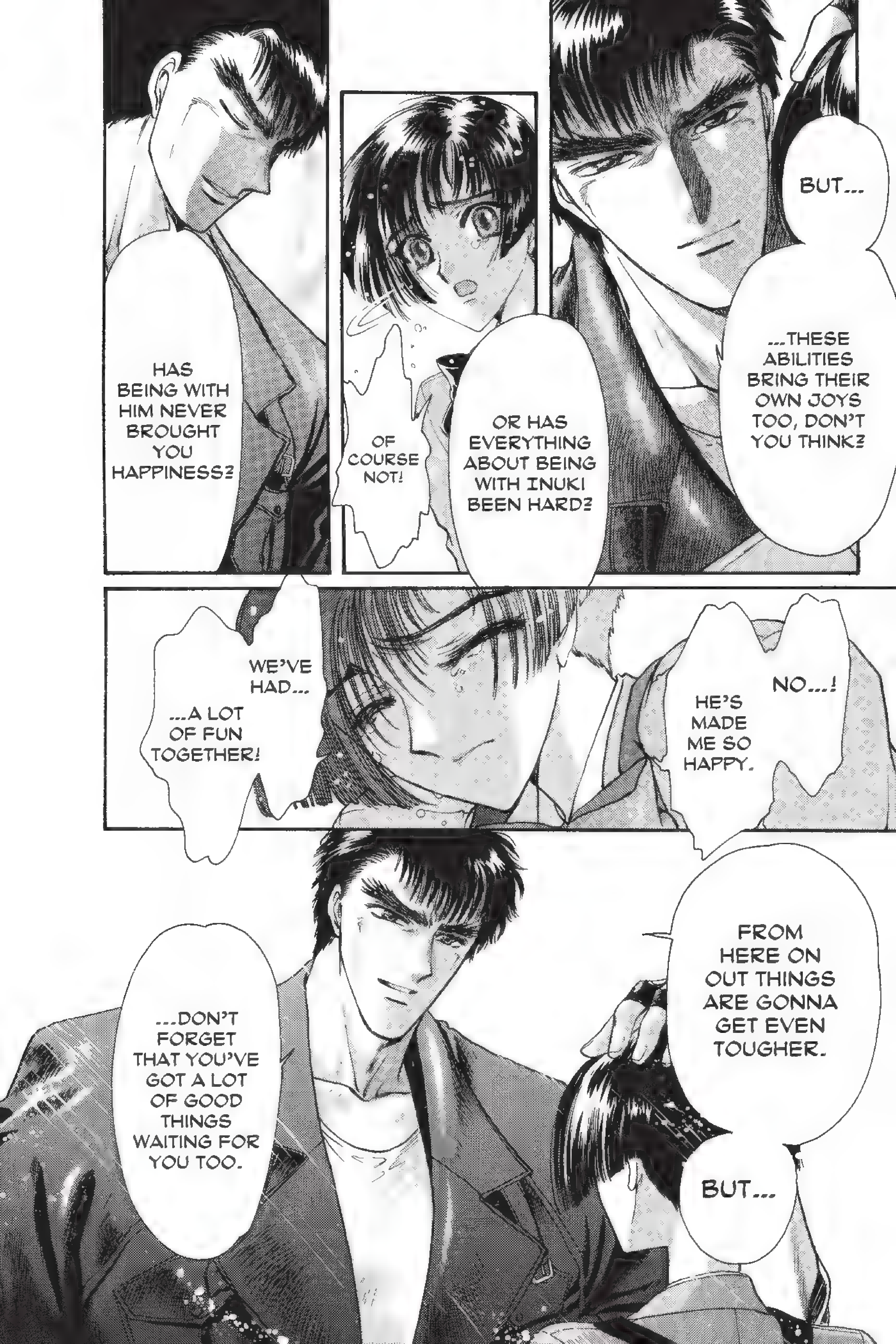
KUSANAGI SHIYU

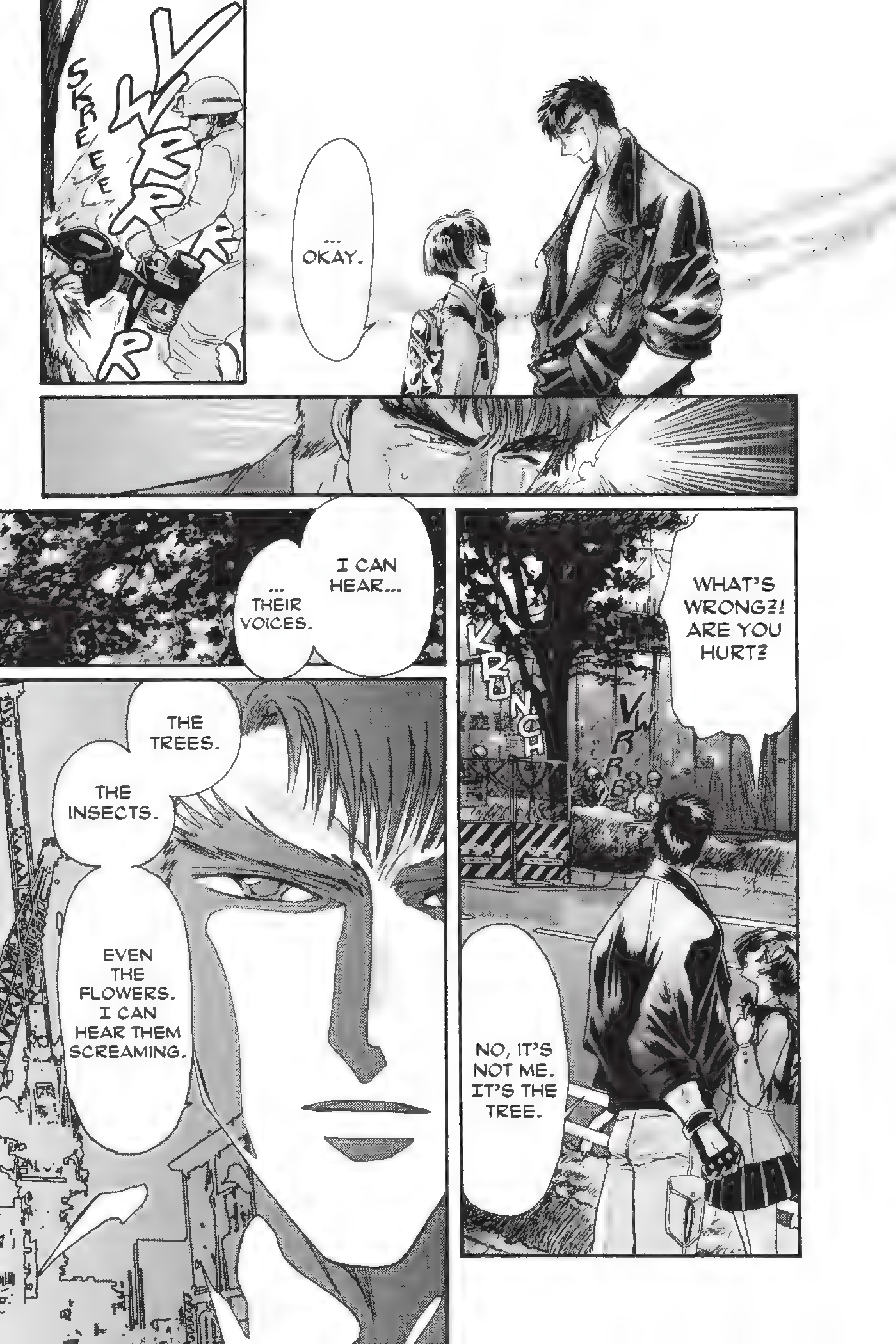

ALL DONE WITH THE CRYING NOW, LITTLE LADY?
YES.
GOOD!
WELL...
...I HAVE TO SAY I WASN'T EXPECTING YOU TO BURST INTO TEARS LIKE THAT.
SHIBUYA
I'M SORRY!
AND, UM... COULD YOU TELL ME YOUR NAME?
KUSANAGI SHIYU, AT YOUR SERVICE.

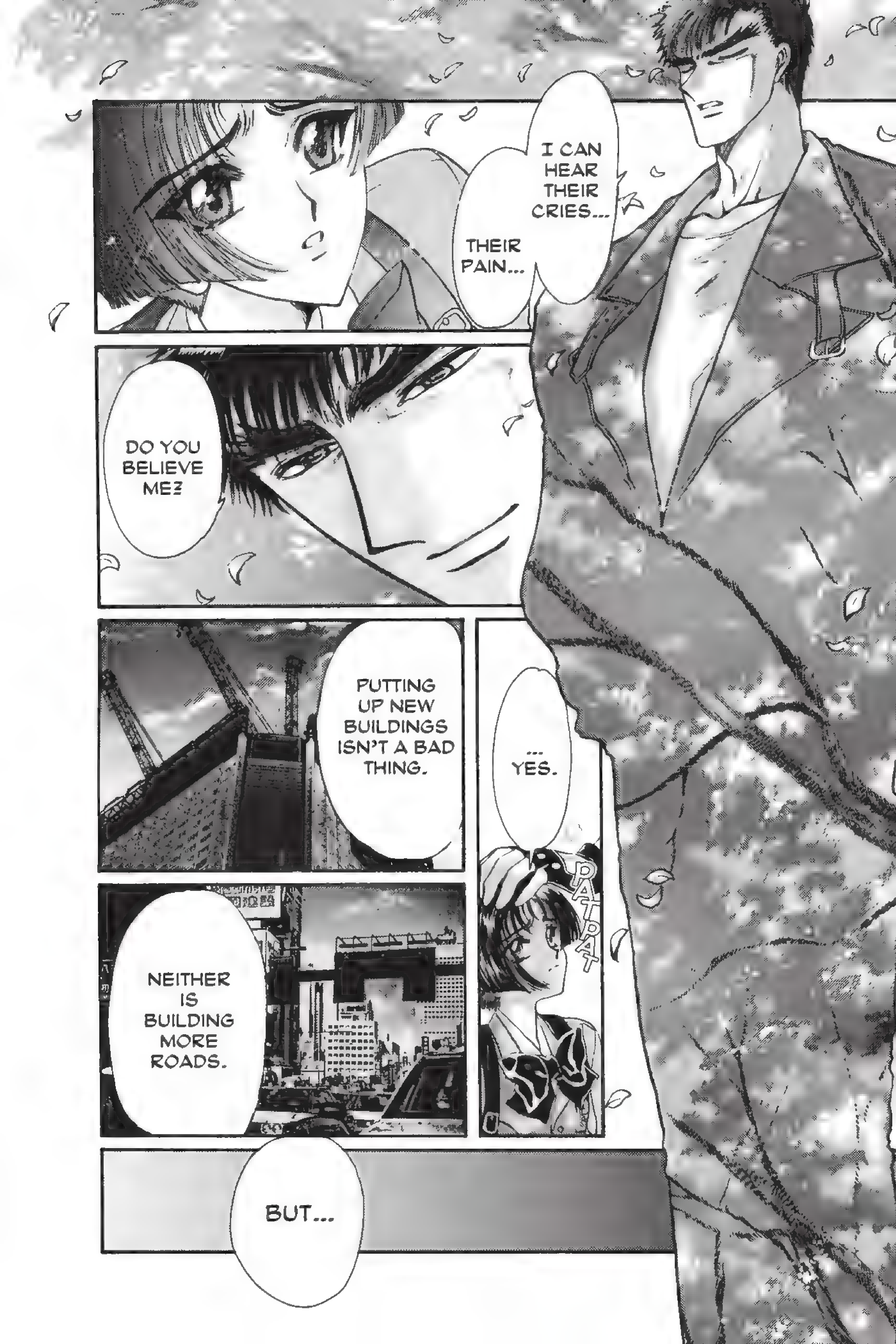

. . . .
Ha ha ha!
IT SOUNDS LIKE YOUR FIRST AND LAST NAMES GOT REVERSED SOMEHOW.
AND WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
YUZURIHA NEKOI!
Y'KNOW, YOUR NAME SOUNDS A LITTLE BACKWARDS TOO.
HAHAHAHAHAHA
UM... CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING ELSE?
WHAT?
MR. SHIYU, WHAT—
JUST "KU-SANAGI" IS FINE.
WHAT KIND OF WORK DO YOU DO?
ME?
I'M IN THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCES.

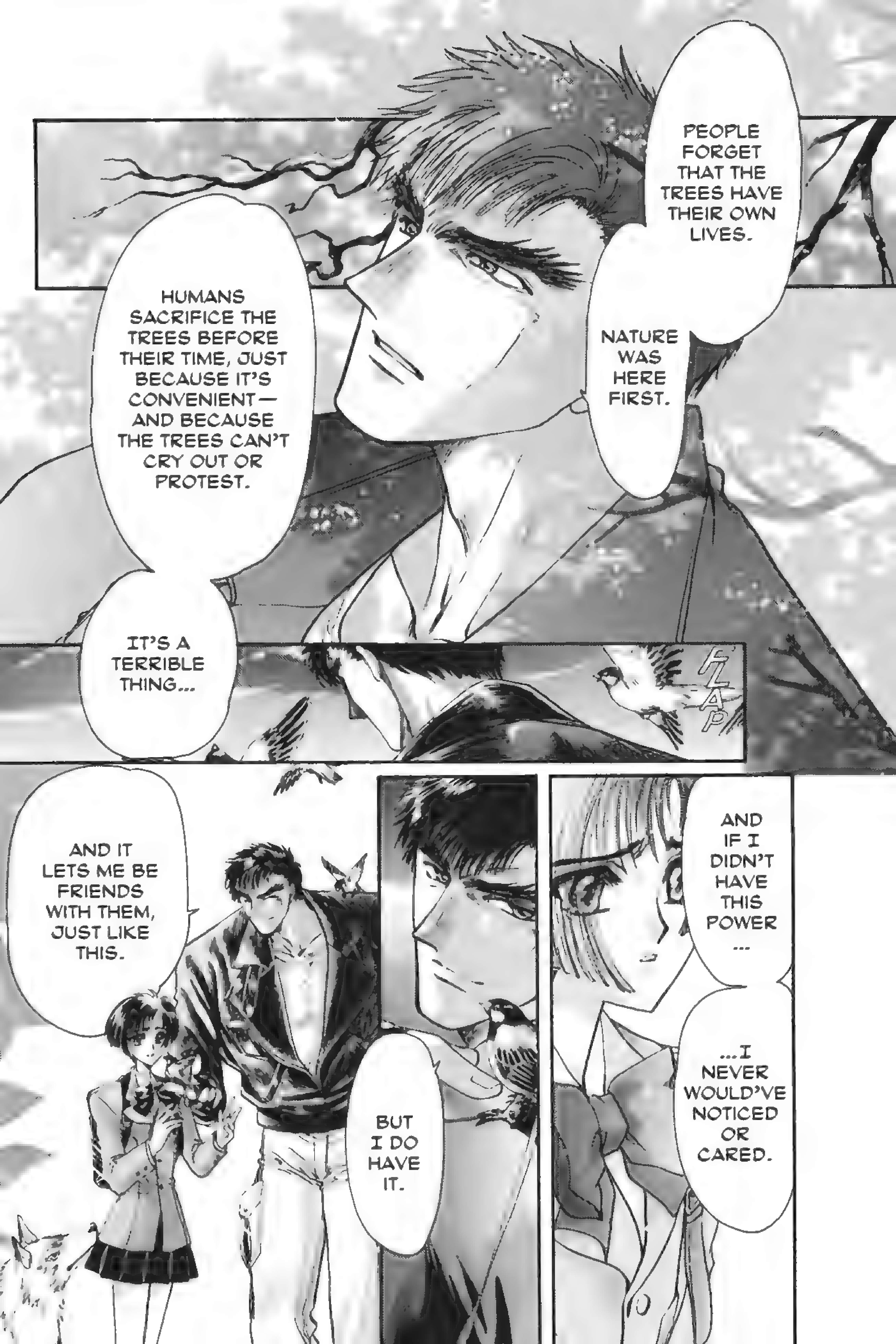

THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCES?
I WAS JUST HEADING TO MY POST AT ICHIGAYA.
IN THE GROUND SDF, TO BE PRECISE.
WOW!
I'VE NEVER TALKED TO SOMEONE IN THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCES BEFORE!
SO COOL!
ba-thmp ba-thmp
WELL, I'VE NEVER HAD A ONE-ON-ONE CHAT WITH A JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL GIRL BEFORE, EITHER.
IN ANY CASE, THAT'S A NICE DOG YOU'VE GOT.

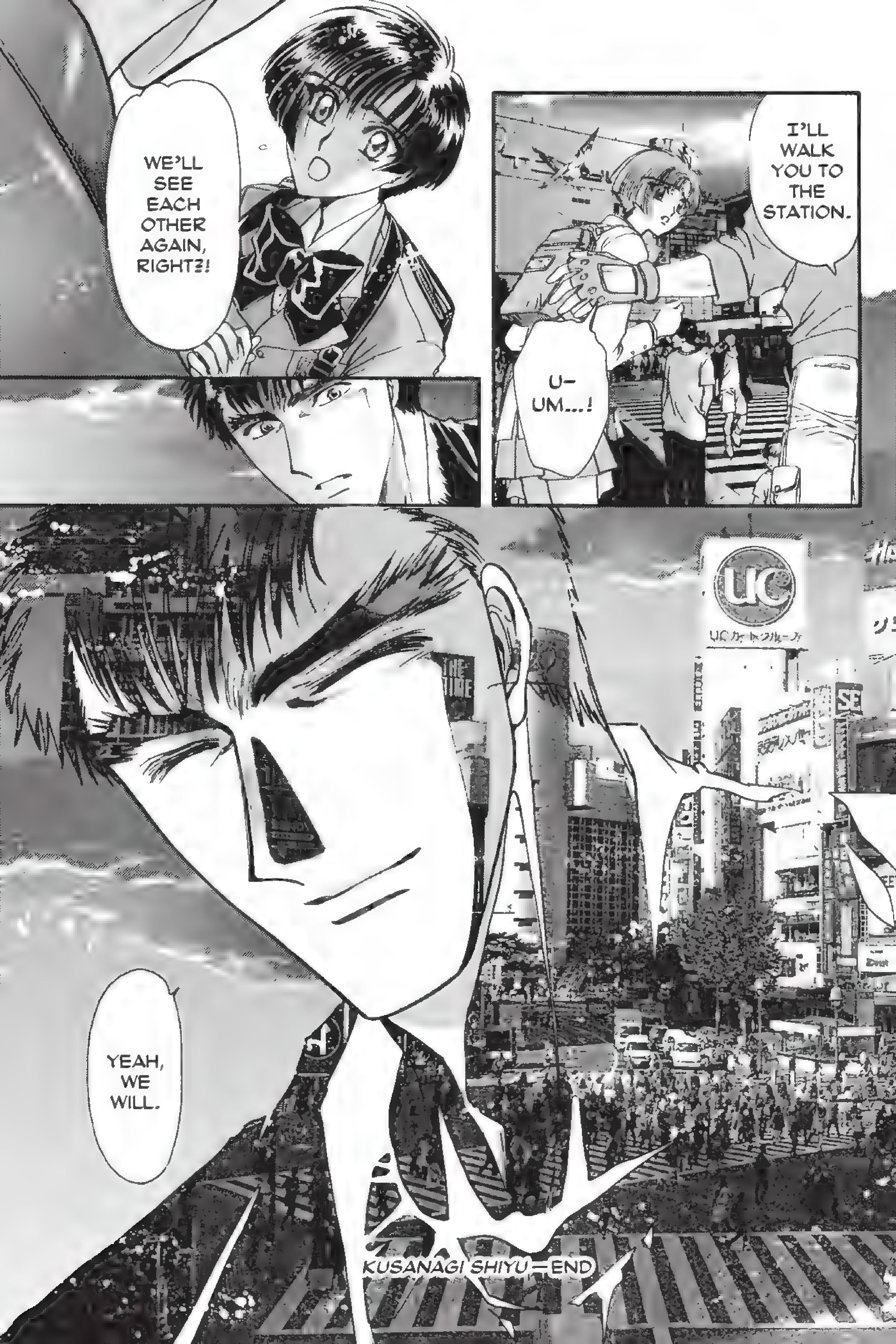

EVERY-BODY... USED TO CALL ME A LIAR.
GNCH
NOBODY ELSE COULD SEE INUKI...
...SO THEY COULDN'T UNDERSTAND.
THEY SAID I WAS LYING...
...AND THAT INUKI DIDN'T EVEN EXIST.
SO I...
I'M REALLY GLAD I'VE FINALLY MET SOMEONE WHO CAN SEE HIM.
IT MAKES ME...
...TRULY HAPPY.
PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN GIFTED WITH AN ABILITY THAT SETS THEM APART FROM EVERYONE ELSE USUALLY SUFFER FOR IT.


BUT...
...THESE ABILITIES BRING THEIR OWN JOYS TOO, DON'T YOU THINK?
OR HAS EVERYTHING ABOUT BEING WITH INUKI BEEN HARD?
OF COURSE NOT!
HAS BEING WITH HIM NEVER BROUGHT YOU HAPPINESS?
NO...!
HE'S MADE ME SO HAPPY.
WE'VE HAD...
...A LOT OF FUN TOGETHER!
FROM HERE ON OUT THINGS ARE GONNA GET EVEN TOUGHER.
BUT...
...DON'T FORGET THAT YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF GOOD THINGS WAITING FOR YOU TOO.


...OKAY.
SKREEEE
VWRRRR
WHAT'S WRONG?! ARE YOU HURT?
KRUNCH
VWRR
NO, IT'S NOT ME. IT'S THE TREE.
I CAN HEAR...
...THEIR VOICES.
THE TREES.
THE INSECTS.
EVEN THE FLOWERS. I CAN HEAR THEM SCREAMING.


I CAN HEAR THEIR CRIES...
THEIR PAIN...
DO YOU BELIEVE ME?
... YES.
PAT PAT
PUTTING UP NEW BUILDINGS ISN'T A BAD THING.
NEITHER IS BUILDING MORE ROADS.
BUT...


PEOPLE FORGET THAT THE TREES HAVE THEIR OWN LIVES.
NATURE WAS HERE FIRST.
HUMANS SACRIFICE THE TREES BEFORE THEIR TIME, JUST BECAUSE IT'S CONVENIENT—AND BECAUSE THE TREES CAN'T CRY OUT OR PROTEST.
IT'S A TERRIBLE THING...
FLAP
AND IF I DIDN'T HAVE THIS POWER...
...I NEVER WOULD'VE NOTICED OR CARED.
BUT I DO HAVE IT.
AND IT LETS ME BE FRIENDS WITH THEM, JUST LIKE THIS.


I'LL WALK YOU TO THE STATION.
U-UM...!
WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN, RIGHT?!
UC
YEAH, WE WILL.

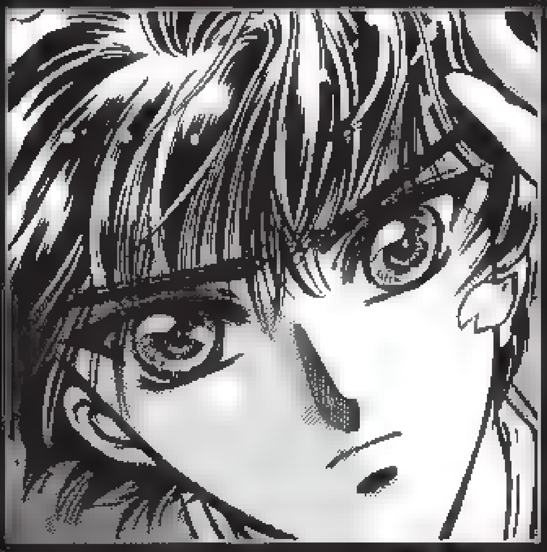
KUSANAGI SHIYU—END

X

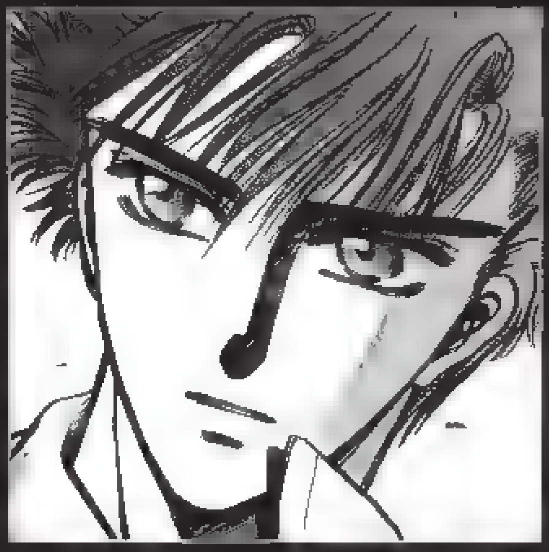
END VOLUME 3

X

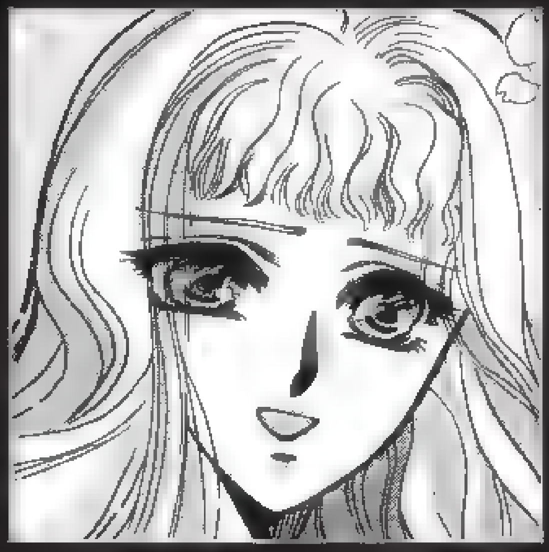
CAST OF CHARACTERS



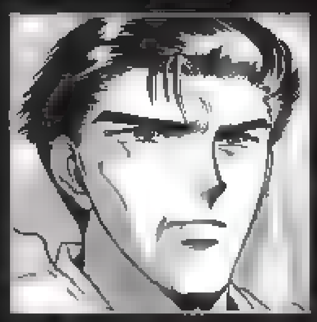
KAMUI SHIRO
A young man possessing tremendous arcane powers, he is at the center of a prophecy concerning the end of the world.



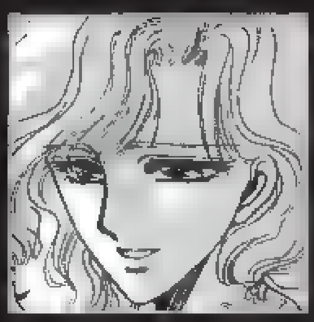
FUMA MONOU
Kamui's childhood friend and Kotori's brother, he's very protective of both of them. He too is somehow involved in the prophecy of the world's end.



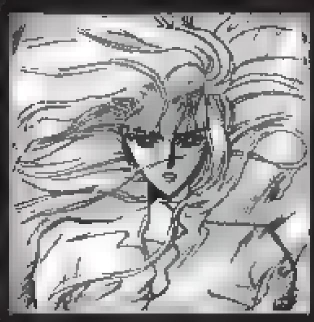
KOTORI MONOU
Fuma's little sister, and one of Kamui's closest friends when they were children. Her health is delicate due to a heart condition.



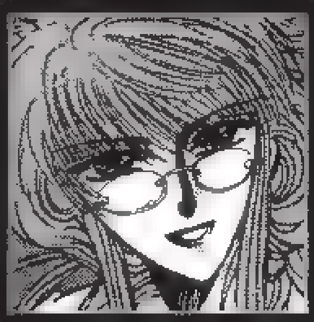
KYOGO MONOU
Fuma and Kotori's father, he was the priest of the Togakushi Shrine and guardian of the Sacred Sword.



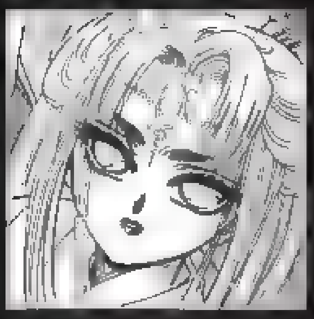
SAYA MONOU
Fuma and Kotori's mother. She gave up her life in order to bring the Sacred Sword into being.



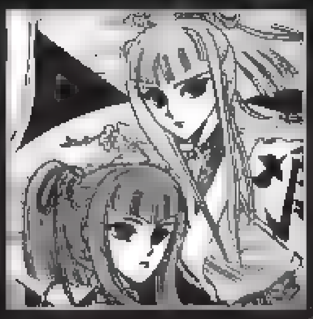
TORU SHIRO
Kamui's mother. A descendant of an ancient family of "Shadow Sacrifices" who have the power to avert the misfortunes of others, she sacrificed herself to protect Kamui.



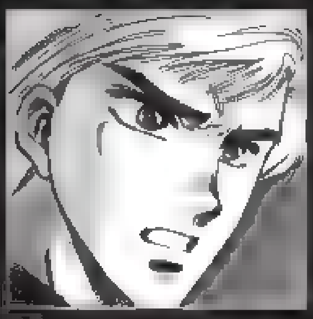
TOKIKO MAGAMI
Toru's younger sister and Kamui's aunt, she died giving birth to the second Sacred Sword.



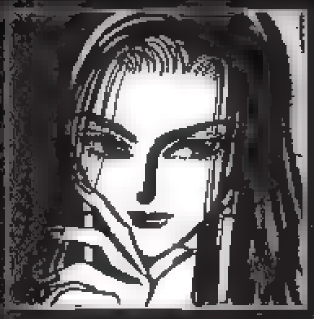
HINOTO
A blind seer who is able to read the future through dreams. She has foreseen the end of the world, and her vision places Kamui at the heart of the cataclysm to come.



SOHI & HIEN
Hinoto's loyal attendants.

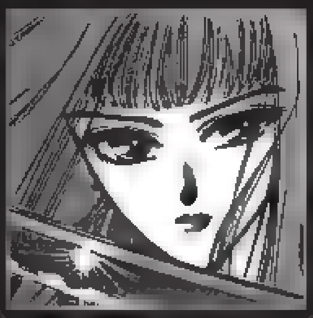


DAISUKE SAIKI
A young wind user devoted to Hinoto, he's initially suspicious of Kamui.

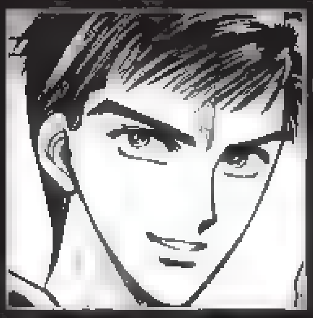


KANOE
Hinoto's younger sister, she also possesses the ability to see the future through dreams. But the destiny that she wishes to bring about is different from the one that Hinoto desires.

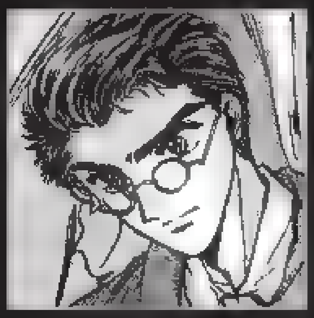
THE SEVEN SEALS



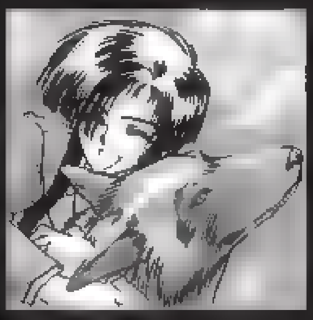
ARASHI KISHU
Raised in the Shinto shrine of Ise, she fights by summoning a sword from the palm of her hand.



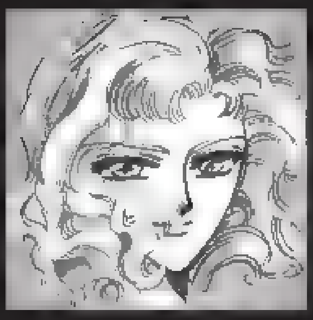
SORATA ARISUGAWA
A priest from the Mount Koya Buddhist temple complex, he has sworn to protect Kamui with his life.



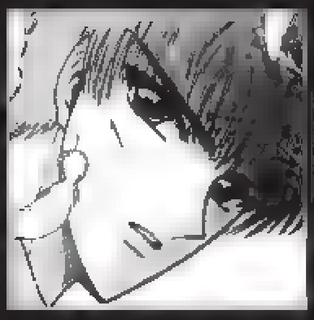
SEIICHIRO AOKI
A harried manga editor with a gentle demeanor, he is also a wind master and a skilled fighter.



YUZURIHA NEKOI
The youngest of the Seals, she is always accompanied by her dog spirit, Inuki, that only she and others with psychic powers can see.

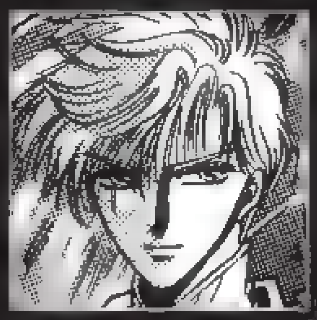


KAREN KASUMI
A fire user who works in a soapland (massage parlor), she endured a traumatic childhood because of her powers.

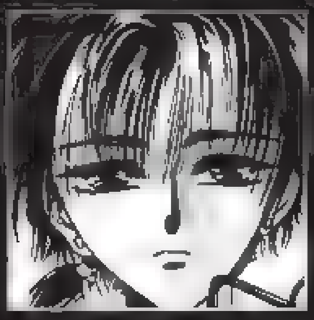


SUBARU SUMERAGI
The 13th generation leader of the Sumeragi Clan, the most powerful users of *onmyo* magic, he shares a deep bond with Seishiro Sakurazuka.

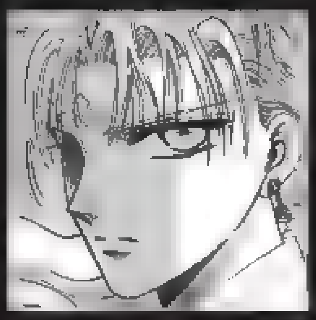
THE SEVEN ANGELS



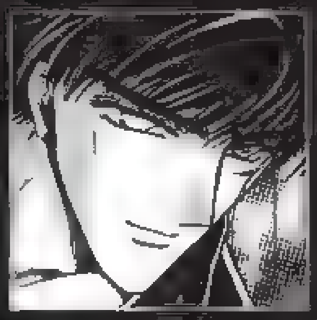
YUTO KIGAI
Working as a civil servant by day, he is a water master whose playful demeanor hides a cold-blooded essence.



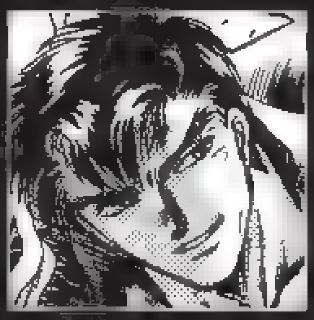
SATSUKI YATOJI
A genius with computers, she shares a special bond with the machine she built, the "Beast."



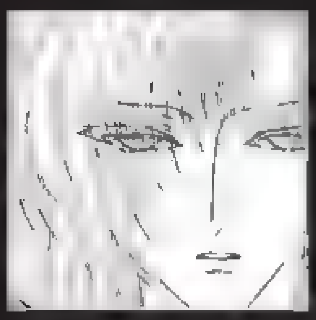
NATAKU
A genetically engineered human androgyne, Nataku wields a ribbon-like length of cloth as a weapon.



SEISHIRO SAKURAZUKA
A skilled *onmyoji*, he is the Guardian of the Cherry Blossom Barrow, last in a line of hereditary assassins. His fate is intertwined with Subaru Sumeragi's.



KUSANAGI SHIYU
Physically imposing but gentle at heart, he is extraordinarily attuned to the natural world. An active service member of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force.



KAKYO KUZUKI
His powerful dreamgazing abilities manifested when he was very young, but after losing someone important to him, he became an invalid.

NOTES ON THE TEXT

FAMILIAR

The word translated as "familiar" is *goho*, which in Japanese is written with the characters for "protect" and "dharma." As the name indicates, *goho* are spirits or minor deities that protect and serve high-level Buddhist practitioners.

KEKKAI

A magical barrier or shield. In the world of *X* there are two different types of kekkai. The first is the individual barrier fields that the Seven Seals create in order to protect their surroundings from damage during a battle. The second is a huge magical ward that protects the entire city of Tokyo.

ONMYODO, ONMYOJI

Onmyodo, or the "way of onmyo," is a school of magical practice based on the esoteric philosophies of Yin-Yang and the Five Elements (fire, earth, metal, water and wood). *Onmyoji*, or "masters of onmyo," are adepts who can use their magic to perform rites such as exorcism, purification, and divination.

SHIKI

Commonly called *shikigami*—but shortened to *shiki* in *X*—these are spirits or minor deities summoned to serve *onmyoji*. Shiki can be conjured in different ways, but the most frequently depicted method is to bind them to a paper talisman infused with spells.

SHINGON BUDDHISM

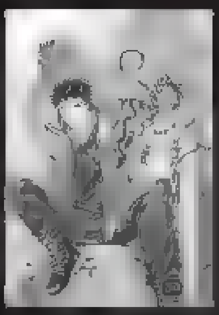
One of the major historical sects in Japan, it is considered to be one of the more mystical branches of Buddhism. It places a greater emphasis on religious experience over doctrine, and a significant aspect of its practice is the transmission of esoteric teachings. For these reasons, it is also referred to as "Esoteric Buddhism."

PAGE 5

2000 *Monthly Asuka* May Issue, Title Page Illustration

"Woman with a Black Veil"—what an obvious title [*laughs*]! I always wanted to draw this kind of image. I thought the dark veil wouldn't really suit Karen; Kanoe was the only character who would look good with something like this. I drew the veil thinking that it kind of looked like a wing. I used color ink for the background and I purposely shaded it in a way that lacked uniformity.

PAGE 6



2002 *Monthly Asuka* October Issue, Title Page Illustration

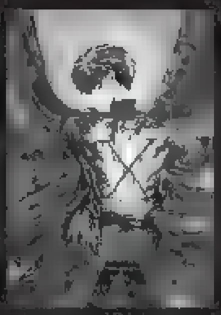
You can see Sorata's familiar here, so this is an illustration for the second half of the story. I actually enjoy drawing creatures and inanimate objects more than people. I wanted to do something with the familiar sitting on his hand like a pet. Ohkawa told me to do an illustration with Sorata wearing street clothes. And that's how this image came about. Sorata was drawn using Copic markers, the background was done with a thin layer of modeling paste, and the shadow was drawn with color ink.

PAGE 7

1995 October, *X* Volume 7, Cover Illustration
Paper: BB Kent
Lines: PIGMA Graphic ink pen
Color: Acrylic gouache, Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink, modeling paste

This is supposed to be an image of Sorata in front of a wall with lots of graffiti and other things drawn on it. But there aren't a lot of variations possible when the theme color is yellow. I always have trouble coming up with items for light backgrounds [*laughs*].

PAGE 193



1993 November, *X2* Music Video, Comic Cover Illustration
Paper: BB Kent
Lines: PIGMA Graphic ink pen
Color: Acrylic gouache, Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink, modeling paste, poster color

I wanted this illustration to have the atmostphere of a wall fresco. I used gold poster color to ink in the decorative elements and keywords.
[Ed. Note: Poster color is also known as "poster paint" or "tempera paint."]

PAGE 194

1999 *Monthly Asuka* October Issue, Title Page Illustration

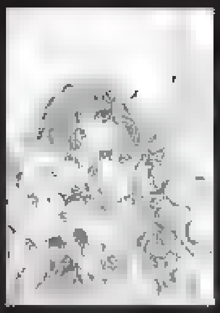
This piece was drawn mostly with Copic markers. I wanted the bandages, blood and cherry blossoms to really stand out, so I colored the background black, but since Subaru only wears black clothes the illustration became completely black [*laughs*]. I used different media

PAGE 1

1992 *Monthly Asuka* August Issue, Title Page Illustration
Paper: Kent Block
Lines: PIGMA Graphic ink pen
Color: Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink, India Ink, Liquitex

The aim behind this illustration was to use all the space provided by the two-page spread in order to draw a very large close-up. And to top it off, I was bold enough to do the shading using just India Ink [*laughs*].

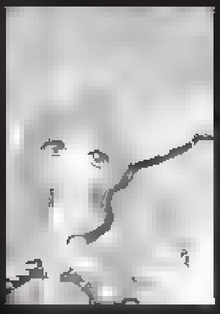
PAGE 2



2002 *Monthly Asuka* April Issue, Cover Illustration

This is a relatively recent piece, so you can see the influence on my drawing style from my work on another series. Her head is large plus her arms and legs seem short [*laughs*]. She's a little plump too... [*laughs*]. Since this was an illustration of Kotori and I wanted to give it a pure and innocent atmosphere, she's holding a white lily. I think I did most of the colors with Copic markers. I always draw Kotori with a very faint and soft touch, so here too the lines are drawn with sepia instead of black.

PAGE 3



2002 *Monthly Asuka* February Extra Issue,
X Comic Collection 03 Illustration

This is the illustration of Kotori with the blue headdress I was talking about before. [Ed. Note: See the illustration comment for page 3 of *X 3-in-1 Edition*, volume 2.] One mistake I made here was that I drew the bird too realistically [*laughs*]. The background was colored in gray tones so that the feathers in her hand would look like snow. I mostly used color ink for this one; the only place I used Copic markers were her eyes. I also used Liquitex for the headdress. I wanted to convey the rounded texture of the beads, and Liquitex is the best thing to use for items like that.

PAGE 4

1999 *Monthly Asuka* June Issue, Title Page Illustration

The image that I had in mind while creating this illustration was that of a female dancer performing a ceremonial offertory dance. I used acrylic gouache for the wisteria flowers. The main lines are drawn in sepia ink. I usually use sepia for inking the outlines of characters with pale color profiles, since the lines stand out too much when they are drawn in black. In addition to Hinoto, Kakyo and Kotori also have sepia outlines. Yuto is the only exception; although he has a light color profile, he looks good with crisp outlines, so I often draw him with black ink.

taking photos for a magazine.
[Ed. Note: Colortone is a type of colored screentone; it's also sometimes called "overlay."]

PAGE 378-379

2002 February *X* TV Anime Volume 1 DVD Box Illustration

This is the illustration for the first volume of the DVD box set. Ohkawa had asked me to do a single piece that would wrap all the way around the box. Plus, the front and back of the box had to feature the characters who played a major role in that DVD volume. I personally wanted to incorporate a round shape as a theme, so I included that in all the illustrations as well. For this volume, that shape is a gear wheel.

PAGE 380-381

2002 *Monthly Asuka* May Issue, Calling Card Illustration (Kamui)
2002 May, Movic Calling Card Illustration (Subaru)

The two halves of this illustration were used separately for calling cards offered by Movic and Asuka. If you got hold of both cards and put them together, you'd get the full image. Kamui and Subaru are often depicted together. They almost seem like brothers in a sense, so it's an easy combination to draw. Although they both have black hair, Subaru has a darker, more pure-black hair color. This is the same in both the manga and anime; ever since Tokyo Babylon Subaru has been drawn without any gloss to his hair [*laughs*]. Another character who has pretty black hair is Arashi.
[Ed. Note: Movic is one Japan's largest producers of anime-related merchandise.]

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1993 *X* Calendar Illustration
Paper: Arches
Lines: Holbein Color Ink (Special Black)
Color: Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink

I colored Kanoe's stockings using an airbrush to give them a realistic look, but the effect turned out to be far more striking than I expected [*laughs*]. I like the lecherous atmosphere of this illustration [*laughs*].

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1997 January, *X* Volume 9, Cover Illustration
Paper: BB Kent
Lines: PIGMA Graphic ink pen
Color: Acrylic gouache, Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink, Lumocolor, Liquitex

I used lots of Liquitex for this one since I wanted to give it a shiny look, like the insulation material on wiring. This image is set during the last minutes of adjustments before the Beast was completed.

to color the clothes and background in order to distinguish the textures. The background was done with an airbrush. I created the cherry blossoms using acrylic gouache and then sprayed over that again with the airbrush.

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2000 *Monthly Asuka* October Issue, Title Page Illustration

A lot of Subaru's illustrations have the same atmosphere, like this one [*laughs*]. I had to include cherry blossoms—well, actually, I didn't have to include them [*laughs*], but I wanted to put in as many as possible. The composition would've looked slightly crowded if the branches of the cherry blossoms were prominent, so I wanted to make the background as dark as possible. Subaru is still wearing ceremonial clothes, so I thought he'd look good against a black background. I used a sepia tone for the main outlines, and an airbrush for the background to give it a soft touch.

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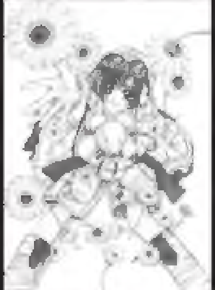
2002 October *X* TV Anime Volume 9 DVD Box Illustration

From the beginning I had decided on a black background for this illustration, but then I had a hard time trying to get Seishiro to stand out with his black clothes. In desperation, I placed a sliding screen behind him and had the black background run behind that. As a result, there's more white in this illustration than black, which is something I regret. As for the round shapes that appear in the DVD box illustrations, in this one I drew the moon on Subaru's side, and for Seishiro...the blade of the sickle isn't exactly round, but it's meant to represent that shape.

PAGE 198



1996 *Monthly Asuka* March Issue, Title Page Illustration
Paper: Wood-free paper
Lines: PIGMA Graphic ink pen
Color: Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink, Copic marker

I started using Dr. Ph. Martin's ink and Copic markers together around the time that I drew this. I just wanted to make it as cute as possible, as you can probably tell [*laughs*]. She's the only character who I can draw really cute illustrations of.

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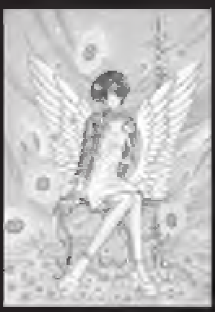

1996 June, *X* Volume 8, Cover Illustration
Paper: BB Kent
Lines: PIGMA Graphic ink pen
Color: Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink, Copic marker, Colortone

Orange was the color theme for this illustration, so I had her wear orange-hued plastic clothes that I had always wanted to try out. It's just like

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STORY AND SCRIPT	NANASE OHKAWA (CLAMP)
COMIC	MOKONA APAPA (CLAMP)
ART DIRECTION	MICK NEKOI (CLAMP)
ART ASSISTANCE	SATSUKI IGARASHI (CLAMP)
COVER ILLUSTRATION	MOKONA APAPA (CLAMP)
BOOK DESIGN	NANASE OHKAWA (CLAMP)
SPECIAL THANKS	SEIICHIRO AOKI
	KEIICHI SEGAWA
	NOBUKO KOMAZAKI
	TADAMICHI ABE
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DESIGN	**FAWN LAU**
EDITOR	**LEYLA AKER**

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